Daily Report

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Cuba

Castro's Final Activities in Mexico Reported

Places Wreath, Calls for Unity

PA0512145888 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] President Fidel Castro reiterated his call for Latin American unity when he placed a wreath in Mexico City at the Monument to the Hero Children of Chapultepec. The monument was constructed in honor of the young Mexican cadets who lost lives defending national sovereignty from U.S. invaders.

The ceremony was of great significance because in 1955, in front of this same monument, Fidel Castro, who was then in exile in Mexico, vowed he would someday return to this historical site after attaining true independence for Cuba.

After the ceremony to honor the Hero Children of Chapultepec, the highest Cuban leader reaffirmed to reporters that Latin America has no alternative but to search for its unity and integration. Fidel Castro said any step by Mexico or any other country in the area seeking to solve the foreign debt problem would be very positive. However, Castro insisted the ideal would be a joint action by all nations in the region. The Cuban president has been in Mexico since 30 November, for the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

More on Barco Meeting

PA0312125688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0344 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 2 Dec (REUTER)—A Colombian official says Colombian President Virgilio Barco met in Mexico City today with Cuban President Fidel Castro. They examined the prospects for peace in Central America following the election of a new U.S. president.

During a breakfast hosted by Barco, Castro said he is optimistic over the waiting period U.S. President-elect George Bush has been given to establish his Central American policy, the Colombian Government official said.

The source, who is a member of the delegation that accompanied the Colombian president to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration, said the Cuban leader hopes Bush will modify the "aggressive policy" his predecessor implemented in the region.

"New relations must be sought with the United States," Castro said, according to the Colombian official, who asked that his identity not be revealed.

Barco and Castro also discussed the southern Africa peace negotiations and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the source added.

Cuban Vice President Carlos Rodriguez, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, and Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono were at the breakfast, which lasted 1 hour. [passage omitted]

Urges Joint Action for Debt

FL0512194288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1745 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Cuban President Fidel Castro today urged the Group of Eight to try to get all Latin American countries together to solve the continent's foreign debt. During a lengthy news conference of almost 3 hours he said: We have to fight united so we can continue calling ourselves independent countries.

According to him, Latin American leaders should find joint solutions to prevent traumatic events. The continent is a powder keg that will soon blow up if a solution is not found to the most serious problem it has had, the foreign debt.

He said the United States has always handled us like the cat that talks separately with the little mice and, faced with this situation, we Latin American countries have not even been capable of getting together as any workers union would do to defend their rights.

He added that now nobody doubts that the Latin American foreign debt is unpayable and uncollectable. Proof of this is that the foreign debt is being sold in financial circles at less than 50 percent of its value.

Castro asserted that the matter continues to be the collection of foreign debt interests which represents a great drain which should be avoided.

From his point of view, U.S. Administrations from Kennedy up to the present have been characterized by their myopia and inability to make long-range plans. They do not carry out policies, they improvise them, he said.

He asserted that the day the United States realizes the problem the foreign debt represents, it will surely use one of its dirty war tactics; interventions and attacks, to prevent social explosions, but this will not work because countries will no longer allow it.

Castro said the $30 million Latin America pays annually for its foreign debt services could allow the nations of the continent to grow. Thus, finding a solution to this matter is a battle of survival.

Referring to the role of the OAS and the SELA, he said good efforts have been made but they have not been enough. Castro added that Cuba will study the possibility of joining the former organization to the extent that it stops being at the service of the United States.

Responding to a question regarding his expectations of President-elect George Bush, he said, it is said that Bush is more pragmatic than ideological and he hopes that Bush doesn't have the same last century's reactionary thinking Ronald Reagan has. However, Castro said we will have to wait and see before assessing Bush.

Throughout the news conference attended by over 100 journalist, Fidel made many references to Mexico and expressed the regard Cubans have for this country, which they consider their second homeland.

He noted the role Mexico has in the Latin American concert and asserted that he hopes it can continue with the climate of stability and democracy it currently has.

Speaking of Angola, Commander Castro said Cubans will not leave the country if an agreement is not reached at the United Nations which would allow the Angolans to live with liberty and dignity, "Even if we have to stay there 10 more years."

He sharply denied that his country is a springboard for drug smuggling. He said this is one of the many lies the Americans have made up. Cuba is one of the most drug-free countries in the world, he asserted.

Regarding Central America, he said it is hard to foresee what will happen in the region inasmuch as the United States continues with its dirty war.

Finally, he denied that Cuban-Soviet relations have deteriorated and said he was pleased with Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Cuba.

Speaks in Tuxpan, Notes Event

FL0512225888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Dec 88

[By Nelson Notario Castro from Tuxpan, Mexico]

[Text] Tuxpan, state of Veracruz in the sister Mexican nation, Tuxpan River outlet. This is where the "Granma" yacht left 32 years ago with its valuable crew of 82 revolutionaries led by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Thirty-two years later, during his visit to Mexico, the chief of the Cuban revolution had an emotional encounter with Tuxpan residents. [Words indistinct] farewell Tuxpan was unable to give the "Granma" expeditioners during the predown hours of November 1956, has multiplied now in this welcome given to the chief of the Cuban revolution. Tuxpan, Fidel, the revolution. People who love Cubans, understand them, and know about their struggle. Thousands of people received the Cuban delegation and they do it with the simplicity and spontaneity of Mexicans. They feel Fidel is part of them.

The leader who has said Mexico is his second homeland, is received here as someone from home who is loved very much and not as a foreign visitor. How many emotions must the commander in chief be remembering at this time! The hurried departure of 32 years ago, the yacht sliding down the river with the threat of being intercepted, the 82 expeditioners traveling in the small vessel the best they can. Raul and Che. If that early morning was full of silence and tensions, this noon is full of applause and confidence in the future. Thirty-two years after the commander ordered the departure of the "Granma" yacht, history proves him right. We note the date because if the departure 32 years ago is unforgetable, this Sunday 4 December 1988 also is.

[Begin recording] [Crowd chants: Fidel! Fidel! and waves Cuban flags] [Mexican Interior Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios, identified by caption] Mexican and Cuban companeros. Let's walk through this painful and long process of our history. Let's continue proclaiming our permanent wish of getting closer spiritually to all the nations of the world. We want do it within the framework of law, which is the way to live in freedom. [applause]

[Castro] Distinguished figures presiding over this event. Dear friends from Santiago de la Pena—this is it, isn't it? [crowd cheers and applauds]—from Tuxpan, from Veracruz, and of Mexico. [crowd cheers and applauds] They are all the same thing, as it is to say that for us Mexico and Cuba are the same. [applause]

I listened very carefully to the generous words of our dear friend Fernando Gutierrez Barrios [applause] There so many coincidences that they may seem incredible. All this is so extraordinary that this event being held here could appear unreal. You may say: Why did this historic event take place in Tuxpan, in Veracruz? It was not historic at the time. It is historic now. You may need some explanation to understand why we ended up in Tuxpan.

We, a bunch of young Cubans had arrived in Mexico, as Don Fernando explained, with the purpose of defeating the tyranny in our country. Why did we come to Mexico? Because Mexico was a common house of all Cubans. Mexico was the common house of all Latin Americans. [applause]

When we were here in 1955 and 1956 there were people from all countries. There were Peruvians because there was a tyrannic government there, there were Dominicans because there was a tyrannic government in Santo Domingo, there were Nicaraguans because the Somoza tyranny was already there, there were Guatemalans because the CIA had just defeated the Arbenz government with its attack. In sum, there were men and women from all Latin American countries here. I believe this helps to understand why we felt, with certainty, it was right to come to Mexico, to get organized in Mexico, train in Mexico, to fight for our country's freedom. [applause]

The trip to Mexico has been very exciting; to come back and see the changes in Mexico, its advances, its progress. I truly appreciated very much the invitation extended to me to participate in the change of government. It was not an easy trip because there were some internal differences, views, opinions. I actually came to Mexico to fulfill an international duty in our struggle of trying to unite wills, trying to achieve a greater unity among our countries in the search for solutions to the dramatic problems Latin American people are suffering today. Nothing is farther from our purposes than to get involved in Mexico's internal affairs. [applause] We will never do that because, as I said, Mexico is like a second homeland for us.

Mexico was the country that always respected Cuba. Mexico was the only Latin American country that refused to obey U.S. orders. [applause] The only country that did not break relations with Cuba. The only country that did not betray the cause of solidarity among the people of Latin America and Cuba.

Cuba and Mexico have waged together many battles in the international sphere, in the United Nations and other fields. For us and all democratic, progressive, revolutionary men in Latin America, Mexico has an enormous importance. We need Mexico. Mexico is one of the countries with more prestige in the world. We know it and we need Mexico's prestige. It is a force in the common struggle the Third World countries have.

If there is a vote at the United Nations and if Mexico has been proposed for a position, the great majority of the countries always vote in favor of Mexico. Mexico is a common treasure of Latin Americans. [crowd chants] [end recording]

Today has been a truly unforgetable day in Tuxpan, Veracruz State.

Returns Home, Talks To Press

FL0512160688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1236 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, arrived in Havana from Mexico City last night. He was a guest at the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the party, welcomed him at the Jose Marti International Airport. [Video shows Castro stepping off a plane and being embraced by Raul Castro and other officials] Members of the PCC Politburo and the Central Committee were also present.

Immediately after his arrival, the commander in chief had a brief exchange with members of the press.

[Begin recording] [First reporter] Commander, you made reference in Mexico, and have done so before, on the need for Latin American unity. You also had the opportunity to meet with presidents invited to Salinas' inauguration. Is there a will on the part of the presidents to take concrete steps for this Latin American unity in the future?

[Castro] I would say yes, there is more awareness and there is much more need. These objective situations are being reflected by the attitude of the government leaders. Of course, this was the point in which (?all presidents coincided), especially in all political statements.

[First reporter] During the news conference you said that Cuba did not have dogmatic (?objections) regarding the OAS. Is this not true?

[Castro] Yes.

[First reporter] Have Latin American governments expressed interest in Cuba joining this continental organization?

[Castro] Well, what do you know about the interview? What has been published here? I do not know what has been published.

[First reporter] Excerpts.

[Castro] It was long. It lasted about 2 and ½ hours. About 18 questions were asked.

[First reporter] Yes, you touched on many subjects.

[Castro] Yes, indeed. I said that in response to a question that was posed to me. It truly reflects our position. This was already mentioned at the Group of Eight meeting in Acapulco; Cuba's right [to join the OAS]. The Group of Eight made this initiative. This was when we had to reach a decision. We arrived at the conclusion that if this was going to be useful to the unity and integration struggle, we could not turn the OAS issue into a dogmatic matter.

As I said yesterday, if that is useful for something it can be done but it wouldn't make any sense if it doesn't. This is what I responded. This interest has been expressed by the Group of Eight. There is no hurry. It is not a priority matter. The continuation of contacts, of unity efforts to face the most serious problems such as the debt, the economic crisis, and all direct and indirect ways of economic looting the Latin American countries are subjected to are much more important.

Do you want to know something else?

[Second reporter] Yes, commander. I would like to know... [rephrases] It appears that the new U.S. Administration will have to get used to the Cuban presence, to a more active role of Cuba in the Latin American continent as a result of your visit to Ecuador and Mexico.

[Castro] It is a new situation. They must have not liked this one bit. All newspapers carried yesterday's interview and published very objective reports on everything that was said. They were very clear, categorical statements. In my view, they were harsh. There was not a lot of kindness toward imperialists. We have been taking this same message everywhere.

This trip was not an easy one from the political standpoint because of the internal differences that came up. We analyzed it and decided that we had to accept the invitation despite internal differences. As I say, strategy cannot be subordinated to tactic. This is very clear, our objectives, these elements, these [words indistinct] decisive struggles. There were misunderstandings, misunderstanding are the part of left-wing sectors. Of course, this is why it was difficult. Everyone was happy in Ecuador. Here the right was not happy and the left was not happy. But in my view, objectivity prevailed. There were a lot of objective factors.

I had a meeting—I believe a very good one—with the leaders. They were very nice. They said they were happy, that they lamented... [rephrases] they would have preferred that it [my visit] would have taken place under different circumstances but that it was an extraordinary thing for them. In my judgment, this was an intelligent thing to say instead of turning the trip into a setback for the left when it could have been presented as a step forward for the country, a success for the left. I was very careful in everything, not letting myself be influenced by any kind of analysis. When I met with left-wing people—I believe it was an excellent meeting. I went there and told them categorically... [rephrases] I explained that it is easy to do things when there are no problems, but that it would have been cowardly not to go there, to be isolated, and not participate. Well, I explained what our line was, our strategy, and the reasons for having to make the trip. The meeting resulted in the analysis of a number of things that had nothing to do with [words indistinct] that difficulty.

The press reported well on this and I believe that, in the end, those who were unable to understand will realize that it was the best policy. Beyond all those things, the support, the generalized sympathy of Mexicans prevailed. That is, people were able to see and separate one thing from the other regarding the internal problems created by the visit. I even said I understood it, that I was not upset or irritated with anyone because of the fact that I understood that they could be concerned since the situation was somewhat contradictory. Cuba's position is very clear and transparent, the objectives are very clear and very far-reaching. Everyone understands that this was the thing to do.

Our work has been intense in the last few days. We went to Oriente and came back. We left for Mexico the same day we returned from Oriente. There has been a lot of activity. So....

[First reporter, interrupting] People will be waiting for you at the square.

[Castro] Yes, it seems that participation in tomorrow's event was an unavoidable commitment. We later have to work on Gorbachev's welcome.

[First reporter] On the 9th.

[Castro] On the 9th. I don't know what other news has been heard here.

[First reporter] Nothing, just that.

[Castro] This is a very busy month.

[First reporter] And later there is also the National Assembly meeting.

[Castro] The National Assembly, another visit we are going to have....

[First reporter] Uh-huh.

[Castro] The Central Committee and the 30th anniversary [of the triumph of the revolution]

[First reporter] Exactly. [end recording]

South Africa's Attitude Considered Insult

FL0512141588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The round of quadripartite talks on the southwest Africa conflict has ended with the unexpected departure of the South African delegation from Brazzaville, Congo. Foreign Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon termed South Africa's attitude as an insult to the rest of the delegations participating in the negotiations, including the United States. Alarcon said all the details for the signing of the Brazzaville Protocol have been ready since 3 December and he could not find a rational explanation for Pretoria's attitude.

Political observers assure that South Africa's departure does not imply the end of the talks, although it presents an obstacle to the negotiating process.

Castro Explains Origins of Rolling Mill

FL0212023788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Before inaugurating the 200 T rolling mill in Las Tunas, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro explained to our correspondent in that province the origins of the project.

[Begin Castro recording] Well, the idea came about in the Havana enterprises meeting held in June of last year. We realized that the construction of the furnace area in the Antillana de Acero expansion was at a more advanced stage than the rolling mill part—this was one part of the problem. Then, when those rolling mills were completed they were not going to produce reinforcement rods but would produce other steel bars, mainly for the mechanical industry.

So, we could not count on an increase in reinforcement rods when Antillana de Acero was completed. Second, the extension of Antillana de Acero was going to produce—through a technological investment—450,000 tons [of steel] instead of 200,000. Thus, we were going to have a larger amount of steel than the capacity of the rolling mill.

We needed those reinforcement rods for construction and exports. A certain market of reinforcement rods exports has been created during these years in the area of convertible currency. During the meeting's discussions, the director of the construction enterprise was asked when the furnaces and the rolling mill were going to be completed. We realized then that if we wanted to have reinforcement rods and if we wanted to have the capabilities to roll out the increased production achieved through the technological investment, more rolling mills were needed.

Since we already had the experience of the one that had been built through the Sime [Ministry of the Steelworking Industry] in Havana, we saw that it was up to us to build it. The only thing was that we had to look for some convertible currency resources to buy some engines and components. Those resources amounted to around $1.7 million. The decision was taken in that June meeting but it had to be built quickly. No location had been assigned for this factory. The plans were not ready. Well, there were no plans yet. A location had to be found for it, it had to be planned, the equipment had to be built in Cuba and assembled. All this was done in 17 months, well, June, July, August, September, October, November—all that was done in 17 months. So, the decision was made, a location was assigned, plans were made, all the equipment was built and assembled, and all the civil construction and assembly was done. The civil construction and assembly was done in 14 months. It was truly a record. I believe this is the way we need to work if we want to develop, with speed and swiftness. Of course, this also shows the current ability of our country to do these kinds of things. [end recording]

Mill Inauguration Speech

FL0112173788 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0213 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro inaugurating 200T rolling mill in Las Tunas on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] Comrade workers of the 30th Congress contingent, Comrade workers of the first 200T rolling mill, Residents of Las Tunas:

I thought we were going to have a small ceremony and I find myself here with this impressive multitude of people, with tens of thousands of people. Someone told me that they estimated 40,000 people were here but I think... [changes thought] Tuneros [residents of Las Tunas] can be seen as far as the eye can see. I don't know where so many Tuneros came from. [laughter] They came from somewhere. [applause]

I was reading today, I was reading a report today that the population, that the population [repeats himself] had increased during the past few years. I think that there are really few opportunities to participate in such an important event. I think that many things have contributed to this project.

First of all, I should say that I'm impressed with the work done here, with the efforts of our construction workers. I think that a record has been set here. A true record has been set in several ways.

This construction project was not included in the 5-year plan. How can such a project emerge that was not included in the 5-year plan? Fortunately, the mill was not included in the 5-year plan. Many times there are projects in the plans that do not come out ahead.

Was it a calculation error? No, it wasn't. We were constructing what is known as the Antillana de Acero expansion. The Antillana de Acero is a steelworks plant in Havana. It used to be a small shop and now it produces around 450,000 tons of steel. That's the way it is now. The plant administrator is here.

Where does the steel come from for construction? All the reinforcement rods [cabillas], not just the reinforcement rods, but also wires used in construction—at least the vast majority of these because there are some specifications, some specific material that has to be brought in from somewhere—and the steel used to build schools, houses, factories, bridges, dams, daries, and so forth primarily comes from Antilla de Acero. This was the first plant built. It was later expanded. We were building the third expansion. It's the third expansion of the Antilla de Acero plant and it's purpose is to produce 650,000 tons of steel. The more than 400,000 tons of steel are rolled out in Antillana de Acero or in a rolling mill similar to this one, which is the first one built in Cuba with equipment made in our own country.

All the calculations were well done but the furnaces that forge the steel, the part of the plant that forges steel, was further ahead in its construction than the part that would roll those additional 200,000 tons of steel that were going to be produced by the third expansion.

Besides this, the rolling mill that is under construction is not being built to produce reinforcement rods. It's purpose is to manufacture different types of steel primarily for the mechanical industry.

We do not use all of the reinforcement rods manufactured in this country. Part of the rods and other steels used in construction are exported for convertible currency. In starting or strengthening construction in our country—including several social projects, such as homes, circles, schools—we found that we had to decrease exports so that we could use more steel ourselves. In expanding it, in expanding the Antilla de Acero plant, we could manufacture steel but we didn't have a rolling mill. The rolling mill would take another 1 and ½ years to complete. It is a more complex rolling mill. This was one of the problems.

The other problem was that once the Antilla de Acero plant was constructed, or expanded, we found that with a relatively small technological investment, we could get a very modern electric furnace. Instead of producing 200,000 tons, we could then produce 450,000 tons of steel. This was obvious. First we would finish the production of levers [palanquillas] and the forging of steel at the rolling mill that is under construction in Havana. As a result of the capabilities of that expansion, we would be able to produce 200,000 tons of steel. However, with a relatively small investment, we could produce more than double this amount. We then found that we had no place to roll the steel.

It is true that we might have been able to export levers that are less expensive than the levers we now produce. It's also true that we need more reinforcement rods. It was during a meeting of Havana enterprises, a meeting of enterprise leaders, the PCC, trade unions, youths [words indistinct]. We all became aware that we would have steel but no rolling mills. The decision was made then to construct this plant.

Why was this decision made? It was made because we had already constructed one. Our mechanical industry had already manufactured its first rolling mill which was assembled in the capital. We already had the experience. We already knew that our own industries could manufacture the machines for this rolling mill. We would have to buy a few components, a few motors, electrical materials, etcetera. We would have to spend about $1.5 million, which later turned out to be $1.7 million. If we had $1.7 million available, we would be able to buy components and build the rolling mill.

At that time, however, the location for the construction of this project hadn't yet been decided. The plans had not yet been drafted. There wasn't a single piece of equipment available. It was immediately decided to build the plant in Las Tunas because we knew that there was a good work force, a good work spirit here. We knew that they had constructed their bottle factory and that it was doing well even though it's a complex industry and that many times... [interrupted by applause] Many times the factory did not have all the resources it needed to import parts for the maintenance of the plant. It's the largest bottle-producing plant in the country. We knew that they were able to construct the Pacto Cabrera factory to manufacture structures, to manufacture [word indistinct].

We followed the policy of setting up as many factories in the eastern provinces as possible, as many new factories as possible. This is one of our principles. It is one of our policies since this is the region that has grown the most, as far as the population is concerned. For some reason, people have multiplied more quickly in the east than in other provinces. [laughter] Many eastern residents went to other provinces; many of them went to the capital, not just at the beginning of the revolution, but also during these past few years. Despite all this, the population's growth rate in the eastern provinces has been greater.

I repeat, it's been our strict policy for years to construct as many new resources as we can build in the eastern provinces, including Las Tunas.

We weren't just going to build a single rolling mill. We were going to build the three mills we needed to process an important part of the 450,000 additional tons of steel that the Antilla de Acero expansion will produce. As I said, we not only increased the production of the expansion from 200,000 to 450,000; we also did something similar in the old Antilla de Acero plant.

Some investments were made to purchase furnaces. We made some technological adjustments that will allow us to produce an additional 100,000 tons of steel. With these adjustments, we will produce 550,000 more tons of steel. That's double the amount we now produce. We will produce twice the amount of steel we now manufacture, 450,000 tons. We will have steel for the rolling mill that is being built in the capital. We will be able to produce the type of steel that the mechanical industry needs and we will have steel for the three rolling mills under construction in Las Tunas. Do you understand?

We'll forge the steel there and transfer it by train—the most economic means of transportation—and the reinforcement rods will be produced here. These will be used for construction projects in the eastern provinces. We will no longer have to haul carts loaded with reinforcement rods from the capital to Las Tunas, Holguin, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo.

Not only will we supply the eastern provinces with what is produced at these three rolling mills, but we will also export part of what is manufactured there. They will also help increase the country's convertible income. We will produce steel for our own growing construction needs, for our ambitious socio-economic development plans, and we will also export part of that production.

When this decision was made 17 months ago, the location and the plans did not yet exist. In 17 months, the plant was located here in this industrial area in Las Tunas. The plans were drafted. Components were

brought in, as the director of the contingent said here. Most of the equipment was manufactured in the Santa Clara mechanical plant, which was also constructed by the revolution. In addition, all civil projects were constructed, the equipment was assembled, and the plant was ready in only 17 months. That's a total of 17 months.

Only 14 months have passed since the construction workers arrived here. Never in the history of our country... [interrupted by applause] Never in the history of the revolution have we constructed an industrial plant of this nature in 14 months. Never has this been done so quickly. Never has such an idea so quickly emerged and become a project and never has a project so quickly turned into actions like on this occasion.

We visited the installation a short time ago. We observed everything from the offices, which are very small. What a victory, what a great victory this is and the small offices are a great concept. The accommodations are large for the workers who come here to help, for the technicians. A group of outstanding, experienced workers from Antillana de Acero are now staying there. They're retired and they've come here as instructors. The accommodations are good. The dining area is excellent. The rest of the installations, the warehouses or the installations storing certain equipment, and, last of all, the furnace, have made this a rolling mill train [words indistinct] are wide and well constructed. They don't get wet. They are extensive and they now have been completed. They produced the first reinforcement rod yesterday during a test run.

This was not the only thing done. This idea was carried out in 17 months and the plant was constructed in 14 months. The staff was also trained during this time. The youths from Las Tunas went to Antilla de Acero to learn how to manage a plant of this nature. Now you can see a group of youths in their work uniforms. Each one is at his work post, ready to run the plant.

When something like this is seen, it is truly an incentive. This isn't all. Over to the side they're building rolling mill No 2. They have set up the foundation. They're loading the ships with the structures that are made right here in Las Tunas at the other plant. This isn't all.

Before we came here, we went to another site not far from here where construction has begun on rolling mill No 4. You may ask: What do you mean rolling mill No 4? Didn't you say there were three mills?

Yes, there will be three rolling mills to manufacture reinforcement rods and we'll build the three plants. However, there is a fourth rolling mill that will not work [words indistinct] that comes from the capital. It will be a rolling mill for special steel that will be manufactured in furnaces in that same plant. The plant will not only have a rolling mill, it will have the furnaces to manufacture special steel. We may have to bring in the raw material but [words indistinct]. Antilla de Acero will produce the steel that will be rolled up to certain specifications. We will roll steel at a certain stage and it's possible that in the future there may be an additional phase to take those special steels to [words indistinct]. No other plant is being constructed that is as important as this one.

A few days ago I talked with Comrade Paquito, first secretary of the PCC in Las Tunas Province. I asked him about this construction project and others. I asked him what resources he would use to move the earth for the pork plan project [plan porcino]. If we moved the contingent here from Covarrubias when they finished their road or sent the workers from Manati to Santa Lucia to finish building the northern circuit and save who knows how much fuel and vehicles... [interrupted by applause] We would not have to go out of our way in bringing materials in from Nuevitas, including cement, fertilizers, or other products. We analyzed this and decided to transfer the workers to Manati after they finish the Covarrubias road. They will reinforce a group of construction workers who are working on the pork plan project. We would reinforce this contingent which is not only involved in the construction of rolling mill No 2, but also in the construction of the famous rolling mill No 4.

Some equipment was designated for this project on the 14th of this month. When we passed through there, I had the satisfaction of seeing the equipment in operation. I was truly surprised by how fast they worked. The workers are being very productive with the equipment. They're making some enormous excavations because the cement has to be very solid so that the rolling mill and the furnaces will have a few meters on each side of those excavations. They have to be deep. In a matter of hours those machines... [does not finish sentence]

They have two machines, two new excavators, a 4124 and I think the other one is a 3322. One is one-half a meter in size and the other is 1 meter. I was very impressed there with the speed of this equipment. You have to see the number of excavations they've dug, the amount of earth they've moved with the equipment they have and with the additional trucks and a loader they received. I've never seen such work done so fast. I've never seen such great organization as I saw there at that project.

That project is very large. They say they plan to finish it by December 1990 in tribute to the Fourth PCC Congress. I also saw some very interesting things there. They're using sheet steel [laminado de acero] in place of wood for the formwork [encofrado] of the foundations. One of the things that affects us very much is the scarcity of lumber. We need lumber for construction, furniture, containers, and other uses. We need it for large construction projects.

In eastern Siberia, there is a growing Cuban contingent that is producing lumber for our country. We receive more than half-a-million cubic meters of lumber from

the USSR and this is insufficient so we have reached an agreement with the USSR to cut lumber there and process it. Some of it is given to the Soviets while we get the rest. All of this takes time, however. It's very cold there and it takes a while to do. That's why we have to be frugal with the lumber. We have to know how to save because lumber can be used for two, three, four, or five formworks, depending on how it's used, depending on how its treated.

I recently saw at the Havana exhibit how by adding some light sheet steel to it, lumber can be used up to 15 and 20 times [as heard]. What a difference steel makes. The engineer told me this and this is how it's also been explained by other technicians. If the rolled metal is not treated well; if it's treated very badly, to make the formwork from sheet steel, it can take up to—for 100 formworks—if we try to regulate it, it can take up to 200 and if it's treated well, it can last up to more than 300. [sentence as heard] The rolled metal can last up to 300 times.

We have no other alternative. Because we don't have the resources to import lumber with convertible currency, we have to save as much lumber as we can in construction. We also have a program to acquire a certain amount of steel to use in construction. We've seen what we should do right here in Las Tunas, in one of those foundries. We saw how they're using sheet steel.

These are new technologies. These are important advancements. Because of this, in this industrial area of Las Tunas, which is completely new, a very important iron and steel industry will certainly develop here.

Why are we seeing these miracles? It's because there are new concepts, new ideas on how construction projects should be organized, how the workers should be organized, what the main principles are to achieve this production. You saw here how production on this plant, based on weight, has cost 62 centavos. Previously, we did not know how much was spent on a project. The budget was confused with the costs. The value of the project was confused with the costs. Now we religiously keep track of costs. We keep track of every centavo that is used for fuel, materials, equipment, for everything. We know exactly what it has cost us, not what its value is. This provides us with great economic efficiency. This was not previously known in any construction project. Many times, instead of costing 70, 60, 65 centavos, according to weight, it cost 1.10, 1.20, 1.30 pesos. It's not really known how much the projects cost.

These new concepts are truly revolutionizing construction projects in our country. These ideas began with the creation of the Blas Roca contingent in Havana. It later continued with other collectives that have demonstrated great feats. The Blas Roca contingent began with one brigade. It now has 11 brigades. The Miguel Henriquez contingent was created with workers from throughout the country. The Purio contingent was created to construct a large mill with a capacity of 1.2 million tons, or cubic meters, of rock and sand. Other contingents have been established.

The Covarrubias contingent was also formed. It's incredible. They had to finish 20 km of road and they'll do it. They considered it a great feat to be able to finish it in 1 year and they're going to do it in 10 months. Those Tuneros will finish it in 10 months applying the principle of the contingent. [applause]

They have 20 trucks. The 20 trucks are being actively used. There is a great work spirit. They have practically devoured that road. This opens a new area of richness for the province because it goes to a few isolated beaches that are of very good quality which can also become a source of important income for the country. As soon as they finish here... [does not finish sentence] They still have to finish part of the road. I was speaking to Paquito. I told him we have the road. We have everything we need to conduct all the studies, to set up the main plan, everything. We already have access. We have a magnificent embankment [terraplen].

I suggested that it was not necessary to completely finish it right away. Instead, we could cover it with a layer of inverted penetration [penetracion invertida] to protect the area since it won't be used right away. It will be used later in the projects and in construction. The asphalt will be used in the work that is being done from Puerto Padre to Manati. We'll use it later. The embankment will be well protected until it is consolidated and we'll use it when we need it the most. In our opinion, it is currently more important to use the asphalt in Manati, to construct that section of the road and asphalt it. At a certain point, when that road will be used more, then we'll asphalt it. Right now we'll protect it with a light covering and we'll consolidate it. This should help with any traffic that may pass through there. I think this will allow the brigade to finish earlier than it had planned and the brigade can then concentrate on the section of road from Manati to Santa Lucia.

There are now around 13,000 workers applying these concepts, these principles of multi-assignment, collective discipline, the discipline that the collective itself sets. They are true examples. There is no absenteeism in these contingents. There is much more productivity in these contingents. These contingents produce with better quality and with much lower costs. Equipment is used better. Previously, if a truck broke down, the driver would go home. He was an idle worker with 70 percent. [sentence as heard] That was crazy. That encouraged workers not to take care of equipment. There are no idle workers now. Now there are muti-assignments.

If a worker gets sick now, for example, if the person who operates the loader gets sick, a driver or another worker can automatically operate that equipment. You will understand that if the person operating the loader is not

disciplined and he's not at his post on time, seven or eight trucks will sit there. They can't do anything. If the workers becomes sick and there is no one [words indistinct] seven trucks because there is equipment that depends on many other pieces of equipment.

Now, contingents do not tolerate indiscipline. The honor of the workers, pride of the workers, does not tolerate indiscipline. Workers establish discipline. The pride of the workers do not tolerate laziness or indiscipline. The love for their project, the dedication of the contingents' workers does not tolerate indiscipline or shoddy work. There are not only 100 or 150, but there are already over 10,000 men working with these ideas and these concepts. I can assure you that the contingents, in comparison to the methods that were previously used, are doing double the amount of work with half the number of workers and they are doing it with much more quality and they're finishing the projects.

How can you spend 10 years constructing a road, spending resources, equipment, spare parts, rubber, fuel, and human resources and still not be able to use that road after 10 years. All construction projects have to be finished quickly because the sooner you finish the project, the less it will cost, whether its a circle, a school, or a hospital. If we spend 10 years constructing a school, we begin using the school 10 years after we've invested resources into it. If we build the school in one year, we use the school as soon as it's finished.

That is why when the construction workers congress suggested we turn the brigade, which was already working with the spirit of a contingent, into a contingent... [does not finish sentence] Today we've presented them with this banner but they had already earned this banner. They were already working with the spirit of a contingent.

There is something else that is also a great incentive. Construction cadres have emerged with new skills, with technical knowledge. They are able to lead collectives with hundreds of men, with 500 men. I'm referring to Eng (Insua) [no further identification provided] because he has had much to do with the success here. He has known how to lead. He has given himself completely. He has been dedicated to the project. [applause] You see that he's a young comrade, an engineer, and you can see that he knows how to approach any task. He knows how to organize the project. He knows what will put the project behind schedule and what will get it ahead of schedule. In this sense, we have on this project the best experience acquired during these past years and the best of the ideas that have emerged from the struggle against negative tendencies and in the struggle for the rectification of errors.

I think that's how we should work. I think that you understand this perfectly well. We visited a child care center before we came here. It's under construction there in one of those neighborhoods. I think it's called "Amiguitos del MININT [Interior Ministry]." It was constructed by the MININT combatants. The child care center is truly a little gem. It is well constructed, pretty. It was constructed in just a few months. [applause] I think it was constructed in less than 6 months.

I've seen several projects that I've inquired bout. I've asked: What is this project? I've been told: It's the university that now has 1,000 students. We're finishing it now. We're building the sports installations or some other installations. This is the university medical facility. This is the only building we have left to finish.

I've asked: What's this other project? I've been told: It's a special school that we're building here in Las Tunas. And what's this other building? That's an art school, a vocational art school. What is this other one? That's the [word indistinct] that we're building. What are you building here? Well, that's the refrigeration unit that we're building and we'll soon have the capacity to do this and that. Everywhere I've... [does not finish sentence] This is an avenue we're constructing.

I asked the comrade from the party, what are we going to do with this crane? The comrade engineer said: If the work slows down here, if we have equipment that's not being used, we then go work on the northern circuit.

We've seen a lot of projects and a lot of projects have been constructed in this province during the past few years. A beautiful building can be seen by any visitor and its' nothing less than the auditorium. There's a new hospital that now has 950 beds. We have there... [interrupted by applause] The (Dal) school is there and we also have the polytechnical health center. There is a home for the elderly. The land has been set aside for a teacher-training school. These are truly an impressive number of projects that mark the progress of this province during the past few years.

The population has almost doubled. Roque [no further identification provided] was telling me that there were 65,000 residents in this municipality when he was municipal secretary. When was that? [Roque responds: It was 24 years ago.] It was 24 years ago and now I think they have about 110,000 or 115,000 residents and not just here in the municipality. There are people working in the sugar centers.

Millions and millions have been invested in the development of sugarcane by-products. Important investments have been made. New investments are being made in the ports. Important investments are being made in agriculture. Important investments are being made in dams and mini-dams. The capacity of the sugar mills has increased to hundreds of thousands and we have built a new center.

Just this year alone, including some of the smaller and larger, more-important or less-important projects, 133 construction projects have been finished in Las Tunas Province. [applause] Before the 31st [of December], 67 more projects will be completed. [applause] Important projects are planned for next year. We're going to build a pasteurization plant that will have a capacity of 100,000 liters of milk a day. It will also have a capacity of dozens of rations of yogurt a day. We will not only build the pasteurization plant [words indistinct].

During the first few days of next year, an ambitious milk production plan will commence which includes building more than 200 dairies. It's an ambitious plan and it will be built in the outskirts of Las Tunas. The plan will include dairies, roads, and towns. It's an integral concept and it's the only way to work in a socialist system. That plan begins next year.

We have plans for poultry, pork, vegetables and tubers, irrigation. We have drainage plans for plots to increase sugarcane production and we have plans to continue developing the production of sugar by-products. There are plans for developing the construction material industry. This year the production of rock, sand, and other materials increased more than 50 percent. We need these materials. Since cement comes from Nuevitas, it will be quicker if it is brought on that road we're going to build. Another important cement factory will be built in the future in Holguin in the Jibara area. The province will then not seem as far away and there will be a cement factory to the west and one to the east.

We will have a very tremendous reinforcement rod factory here. This province already has factories for cement blocks, tiles, and other construction materials. The facilities are being expanded at the furniture factory.

All this is reflected in many things. I remember a few years ago that the school retention index was very low in Las Tunas. Today, the rate of those children staying in school is the same in Las Tunas as it is in the rest of the country, 96.8. I remember the difficulties that existed a few years ago in education. Then the teacher's school was built. Thousands of teachers were trained and the province has taken a big leap in education. The teacher-training school is also going to be built.

I remember a few years ago, 8 or 10 years ago, the infant mortality rate was almost 30 percent. This year, it's around 15 percent. It's still high but it's half of what it used to be. We can see the result of the work of the doctors. In 1977, there were less than 200 doctors. I'm not talking about the capitalist era. Who knows how many doctors there were then. There were probably only a few. However, in 1977, there were less than 200 doctors and now, the province has more than 700. In addition, the medical school has more than 1,000 students. They are studying at the Las Tunas medical school.

This is truly something that is worthy of admiration, if we consider what this province had. Today, we're discussing university facilities. We're discussing a medical school with more than 1,000 students. It's proof of the development that this province is undergoing as a result of the revolution. Las Tunas is now a province. It previously was a municipality. I think that you are the best witnesses of that progress.

The province is progressing in many other areas. In the sports sector, there are more than 600 sports facilities. There are plans to expand the baseball stadium. They have the polyvalent auditorium. A swimming school is being built. In the end, they'll even have swimming championships here in Las Tunas. [applause]

We're pleased to see this. We're pleased to see this progress. We're pleased that these children, adolescents, and youths have all these things. We're also pleased to know that if we work well, we'll have many more of these things in the future. We'll have more homes, more circles, more schools. We'll produce a lot more food.

We plan to increase milk production by at least 5 times. How much do we produce a year? We produce 20 million liters a year and we plan to produce more than 100 million liters a year of milk. This is the equivalent of approximately 280,000 or 300,000 liters of milk a day. We will have to take advantage of those lands.

If we work well with the resources we have, with the experience we have, and with the new cadres we have, as well as with the technicians we have, we will truly be able to do whatever we plan to do.

Who would have thought that Las Tunas Province, which did not have any industries besides the sugar industry, would be able to operate that large bottle factory or those structural plants? Who would have thought it would have been able to construct in only 14 months an industry such as this one? It can be said here that Las Tunas [words indistinct] to do this same thing in 14 months and not in 12 months. [applause]

We will continue to promote development. We will continue to encourage the construction of highways, dams, mini-dams, canals, and the application of technology in agriculture. In this way, the most backward areas of the country will, in a not-too-distant future, become a sort of pot of gold. [applause] This is in your hands. This is in your hands, the hands of the Tuneros.

The same thing that you are making an effort to do is also being done by the comrades of Holguin, Granma, Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and elsewhere. This is a national effort amid difficulties, amid difficult circumstances. However, now, more than ever, we have to work more efficiently. Today, more than ever, we have to advance. Today, more than ever, we have to use properly

each centavo, each gram of material, each drop of sweat. Today, more than ever, we have to be more efficient in our efforts and we will be more efficient.

This event that has called us here this afternoon is proof of this. This record set by the heroic workers of the 30th anniversary contingent of workers is proof of this. [applause] It gives us incentives to continue struggling. It gives us an incentive to continue rectifying. It gives us an incentive to advance on the correct road.

I was speaking with journalists down by the sea, at the end of the Covarrubias road. I was telling them that we could suddenly discover many things or we could become aware of many problems. What is not possible is to suddenly resolve everything. Every problem has its own importance. Each problem has its own possibilities. I think we have a clear idea of the importance of each problem, of the priorities of each problem, and of the correct way of confronting these problems.

We have seen the results here, this afternoon, in Las Tunas. We've not only seen the results in cement, in stone, concrete, steel columns, in well-cultivated and well-attended sugarcane fields, in industries; but, above all, we've especially seen it in this ceremony. We have seen it in the people, in the confidence you have, in your optimism, in your enthusiasm, and in your revolutionary spirit.

These days we are marking the 30th anniversary of many historic, epic events that took place at the end of 1958. The revolution is going to be 30 years old. If, after 30 years, the revolution did not create anything more than a spirit such as this, patriotism such as this, a political culture such as this, an awareness such as this; if 30 years have passed with tragic events, terrible injustices, ignorance, illiteracy, illness, unemployment, hunger, machete plans [as heard], imprisonment, injustice; if, after 30 years, the revolution did not create anything more than a people such as this one, all the efforts made have been worth it. All the sacrifices made have been worth it. The blood that has been shed has been worth it. [applause]

That is why, people of Las Tunas, we urge you to continue to struggle like this, to continue working like this. This is the only way to develop a country. This is the only way to conquer difficulties. This is the only way a new fatherland is created. Only like this will we truly honor the heroes and martyrs who over 100 years ago began in these lands the glorious struggle for independence, freedom, dignity, brotherhood among men, and justice.

Fatherland or death, we will win!

Haiti

Party Leader on New Investigating Committee

FL0312152388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Many people reject the report from the investigating committee [on the 29 November events]. They do not like the report on the 29 November 1987 murders prepared under the CNG [National Government Council]. [passage omitted]

In the face of this general disapproval, the military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril issued a decree on 28 November 1988 in which it announced the formation of a new committee to investigate the 29 November 1987 events. [passage omitted]

We interviewed Mr Rene Theodore, who spoke for the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH]. Theodore said he thought this was a very good decision, although he had some reservations on the matter. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] We say it is a good sign for the government to have come up with a new investigating committee because the Haitian people have never, to this day, been in the habit of—when it takes a position, when Haitian public opinion adopts a position—having the government react the way the people want. In that sense, we must say that it is a good sign that the government has taken into account Haitian public opinion, taken into account the popular will as regards the investigation results that had been made public and that no one accepted.

Now the government has appointed another investigating committee. The only question we have is: What is this investigating committee's goal?

If this investigating committee is going to analyze, is going to seek causes, is going to try to simply give an account of 29 November, as the other investigating committee did, we say that that is not what the Haitian people want.

The people want justice. They want the guilty parties. They want an example to be set with these guilty parties, an example that shows that crimes may not go unpunished—and political crimes are as criminal as any other crimes. Besides, 29 November was not just an ordinary political crime. It was a massacre of many citizens; and it also sullied Haiti's image before the entire world.

The harm these people did the Haitian people and Haiti as a nation is too serious to be left unexplained. It must be explained. Punishment must be exemplary.

Already, as you know, the public hue and cry has already pointed the finger at a number of citizens—all those people who appeared on television on the eve of 29 November, and who were calling for civil war, calling for (?a) massacre, and who warned that 29 November would not take place because they did not want it to take place. All those people should have already been taken to court. They should be in jail.

Why? Because it was the government's duty and obligation to arrest them on that very day, 29 November. But the government didn't do it. It didn't do it then and to this day has not done it. [end recording]

Thus, the Haitian people are asking for justice. That is perhaps the reason the government has formed a new committee to investigate the murders that occurred on 29 November 1987, so that the criminals can be sought, so that those guilty (?in one way or another) can be sought, so as to catch them, try them normally, and punish them under the law.

Political Leaders Attend Socialist Meeting

FL0212152688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The regional committee of the Socialist Internationale has expressed concern over the way the political situation is deteriorating in Haiti.

In this connection, the general secretariat of Konakon [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements] announces that two of its leaders, Victor Benoit and Jean Claude Bajeux, participated in the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee of the Socialist Internationale as special guests for 2 days, 26 and 27 November. Mr Arnold Antonin, representing PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], also participated in this meeting, which was held in Santo Domingo.

Summing up the Haitian political situation since 7 February 1986, the Haitian delegation pointed out that after Duvalier was overthrown, the Haitian people, through its civic, lay, and religious organizations and political parties, showed that it was ready for democracy. The democratic system was considered an indispensable condition for social and economic change in Haiti.

However, the CNG [National Government Council] that Duvalier had set up before departing, trampled all the Haitian people's aspirations for the masses and the nation; and on 29 November 1987, it drowned in blood the Haitian people's desire to establish a democratic regime through fair, unfettered, democratic elections.

The political crisis has gotten worse daily as of that date, despite apparent calm in Haiti. The hopes that sprang up in the hearts of the Haitian people with the 17 September movement have for many turned into true doubts as regards—and for the majority into a total lack of trust in—the policy being applied by the current government. This is precisely because no concrete measures have been taken to begin to satisfy the Haitian people's demands as regards justice, the disarming of the paramilitary forces, and reform in the public administration.

The regional committee of the Socialist Internationale, which is headed by Dr Francisco Pena Gomez, showed great interest in the evolution of the political situation in Haiti; and the committee's final resolution says that the committee is very concerned about the deterioration of the Haitian political situation, which is obvious from the many human rights violations in Haiti, the many coups d'etat, and the suspension of the Constitution ratified by popular majority in March of 1987.

The committee invites General Avril's regime to respect the promises it made to the Haitian people regarding guaranteeing the physical integrity of opposition members. The committee asks that the members of the opposition be respected. Next, it asks that the government punish those responsible for the massacres and murders and that all those (?leading) the macoute groups be brought to trial.

The committee asks the Haitian Government to reinstate the Haitian Constitution, in order to accelerate the democratic process, (?and to) form an independent electoral council that will guarantee proper, honest, elections in Haiti.

Also, [Dominican political] leader Pena Gomez expressed the hope that in a not-too-distant future, the committee might envision the possibility of organizing a meeting in Haiti, so that it can better understand the realities of Haiti, (?and engage in) a dialogue with all political sectors involved in the struggle for democracy in Haiti.

Human Rights Advocate on New Investigation

FL0312153888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] After the government issued, on 28 November, a decree on the formation of a new investigating committee to cast light on the 29 November massacre, the organizations for the defense of human rights are currently getting together to decide who should represent them on this committee. There have already been several meetings, and more are scheduled.

The human rights organizations are to meet with the journalists (?associations) and with the order of lawyers, in order to adopt a joint position and to set forth their conditions to the government.

Arnold Antonin, of the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights [Rezo Nasyonal Defans Dwa Moun], has stated his opinion of the government decree. In the first part of the interview he granted us, Mr Antonin said he felt the decree was a double-edged sword, a pharmacist's knife, a poisoned gift. He also said he thinks the government possesses enough evidence to capture the assassins, if it has the political will to do so.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Antonin] I must say that I have two reactions. My first reaction is one of distrust. [passage omitted] I think this is also the attitude of much of the population recently, for we have often had the impression that a number of measures the government was taking could be described as trompe

l'oeil—that is, that the government was sending out a smokescreen—especially since I found the latest two reports, from Namphy's so-called investigating committee, most offensive, for everyone was expecting something else. Thus, when I first saw these reports, my first reaction was: It is an April Fool's joke [play on words involving the name Avril, April in English]. I said to myself: It looks as if they are going to April-fool us again.

Upon studying the decree, however, I found one of the clauses in its preamble extremely interesting: The first clause—which says: In view of the fact that the conclusions of the investigation failed to satisfy the population's expectations....

This gives me a different impression. I thought to myself: Hmmm, now it looks as if some people in this government are concerning themselves with the population's expectations, for they included this matter in the preamble of the decree. [passage omitted]

The first investigating committee put out a report that consisted of a lot of garbage in seemingly legal jargon, and in the last analysis said nothing—instead of shouldering their responsibilities and coming right out and saying that they had been unable to investigate. But no, instead, they came up with an investigation in which there were apparently no guilty parties. No one was responsible.

So, now, I do think it is a positive thing for the government to reopen the investigation. [passage omitted] Also positive is the makeup of the new investigating committee. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Before discussing the makeup of the committee, you mentioned an April Fool's joke. By putting a bunch of "in view of the fact that" clauses in the decree, the government might be scaring certain sectors. Could this be a way of making certain people hasten to leave the country, to flee? Also, the other thing to see is if this is really a positive thing is, assuming that the investigation is a serious one—and it looks as if it will have to be a serious investigation, for they have called on sectors that are not governmental sectors or sectors involved in the 29 November thing—do you think this might constitute a (?rupture)? That the government might have decided to break with the macoute sector? And if so, at what price?

[Antonin] First of all, I think that if someone has had the time to flee, even if the person is not present, he can be sentenced in absentia. There are a number of measures that can be taken against him. In any case, should the police be conducting its own investigation, perhaps it would do well to take preventitive measures against everyone already denounced by the public or suspected of having participated in these eventss. They could at least forbid them from leaving the country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Shouldn't the political organizations go ahead and ask the Public Prosecutor to forbid certain people from leaving the country, before the investigation even begins?

[Antonin] Probably. Probably. And not just the political organizations! I feel that, given Haiti's current situation, a government that wants to democratize the country should not, on the pretext of wanting to remain neutral, wait for political organizations to take certain initiatives, because political organizations can only make proposals. They cannot carry out the said initiatives. Thus, the government itself should take these measures. [passage omitted] The government should take all the measures it deems necessary.

The other thing I notice about this decree is that it puts the onus on the democratic forces. However, there are poisoned gifts, which one must know how to handle. [passage omitted] Given the situation in Haiti, and given the (?background) of the 29 November crimes—and also of the crimes preceeding and following the 29 November crimes—it is the current executive—if (?it) has the necessary political will to do so—(?that) can solve this problem, because the government more than anyone else can provide all the evidence—all the different kinds of visual documents and especially written documents, plus the conversations, and witnesses.

Surely no one would dare try to claim that what happened in Haiti was done without the Haitian Army's knowledge. It is, however, probable that it was done against the will of many Haitian Army men, who would have preferred that it not be done. But it was not done without their knowledge. They knew about it, but they perhaps didn't want it to be done. Thus, these witnesses—the people who knew but who didn't want it done—are mostly in the Army. Therefore, I think the Haitian Army must (?take care of this matter), so that this new investigating committee can come up with proper results. [end recording]

PDCH's Sylvio Claude Accused of Slander

FL0312160788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] In connection with the 29 November massacre, Alphonse Lahens has initiated legal proceedings against PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] President Sylvio Claude, who accused him over the radio of having participated in the 29 November 1987 Ruelle Vaillant massacre. According to the summons, the statement to the effect that Alphonse Lahens, who was a candidate in the last elections, participated in the Ruelle Vaillant massacre, was also carried for more than 3 days over another two radio stations. According to the summons, Sylvio Claude has 8 days in which to retract what the summons terms as the slanderous and defamatory accusation.

For its part, the PDCH maintains its position regarding the accusation it made against Alphonse Lahens.

In a press release dated 1 December, the PDCH says: The criminals, the murderers, the assassins of 29 November, have once again begun attacking people.

The PDCH says: Whether they like it or not, despite the propaganda aimed at making the soldiers, and especially the policemen, believe that Rev Sylvio Claude is the enemy of the Haitian Army, the soldiers and officers who come from the masses (?do) not deny (?their) popular origins.

The PDCH says: The good soldiers in the Army come from the masses, and do not lose their roots, even when they get promoted and become officers.

The PDCH says that exactly 9 days ago, a Haitian Army soldier came most indignantly to inform Rev Sylvio Claude that Mr Alphonse Lahens had gone to the National Palace to confer with Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, who authorized him to initiate legal proceedings against Rev Sylvio Claude for having accused him of having participated in the Ruelle Vaillant massacre. Indeed, a writ-server came to deliver a document to this effect—in connection with what was discussed by General Avril and Mr Lahens—to the PDCH headquarters.

Pastor Sylvio Claude thanks, the soldier and son of the Haitian people who came to him to inform him of this.

Rev Claude says that he has drawn the following conclusions from this affair: General Avril is plotting with the macoute forces. All the wishes Avril expressed on 29 November are just a bluff [preceding word in English]. People who believe in honest elections, without any 29 Novembers or incidents like the Freycinau incident, will be imbeciles.

Rev Claude says that the people who committed the 29 November massacre are all hardened criminals, who should be persecuted worldwide, as Nazi war criminals are persecuted. These people will never (?become reasonable) and give the Haitian people a chance to solve their problems. Claude says that Mr Lahens has rapidly forgotten everything he said over RTNH and during the (?meetings) in Les Cayes, as well as his participation in the 29 November events.

The party says it maintains its accusation that Mr Alphonse Lahens is one of the people who committed the November 1987 crimes, and that Lahens should be arrested, prosecuted, judged, and sanctioned. He should be sanctioned for the same things as Claude Raymond, Jean Theagene, and Clovis Desinor. [passage omitted]

New Director of Immigration Service Appointed

FL0312150188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination announces the following appointments:

Mr (Franck Bonhomme Fils) has been appointed director general of the Immigration and Emigration Service, and Mr Roland Magloire has been appointed deputy director general.

Mr Fritz Romulus, colonel, Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], has been appointed director general of the National Airport Authority, AAN; Engineer Dejean Belizaire has been appointed AAN deputy director general; and Mr (William MacKintosh) has been appointed special adviser.

Major Joseph Pierre Antoine, FADH, has been appointed head of the security service at Mais Gate International Airport in Port-au-Prince.

That was a press release from the Office of the director of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Justice Minister Tours Artibonite Valley

FL0312151088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpts] We have learned that Justice Minister Gilbert Austin visited the Artibonite Valley yesterday morning. He visited both the upper and lower Artibonite Valley. He was in the town of Saint-Marc. [passage omitted]

[Begin Saint-Marc correspondent Rodrigue F. Sejour recording] On Wednesday, 30 November, the land court and the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Saint-Marc had the honor of being visited by a Justice Ministry delegation headed by Justice Minister Gilbert Austin. The other people in the delegation were: Justice Ministry director general Yves Barbot; ministry director for Judicial Affairs (Alean Dormeus); (David Jean-Pierre), head of the ministry's correspondence department; and (Raymond Pierre-Louis), head of the ministry's Department of Control and Inspection of the Civil Registers.

The delegation arrived in Saint-Marc at 1000. It was welcomed by the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor and the doyen of the civil court. They immediately went directly to the land section. Then they went to the office of the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court, where the judges, lawyers, and court clerks of that court, as well as justices of the peace, surveyors, notaries, and civil registrars from Saint-Marc and nearby communes were awaiting Minister Austin.

A group of peasants from the center of the valley, who seemed to have known about the minister's visit, were also present. [passage omitted]

The minister made a speech about violence against the people, property destruction, and fighting over land in the lower Artibonite. He (?spoke at length) about the people who are committing crimes and who have never

been arrested. Mr Austin said: As long as I am minister of justice, people who commit crimes must be arrested, brought to trial, and punished.

Finally, the minister asked to hear the complaints of the lawyers of the Saint-Marc bar.

Lawyer (Bayard Vincent) stood up and said he was speaking in the name of all the small peasant farmers. He stated a number of reasons why the problem of fighting over land has not been solved in the lower Artibonite Valley, including the fact that big landowners are given more advantages than small peasant farmers; the fact that there are two land courts for a single valley—two courts which seem never to be able to reach agreement. Mr (Vincent) also proposed a few solutions.

Lawyer (Jean Supplice), who is a member of the Saint-Marc bar, backed up Mr (Vincent's) statements. [passage omitted]

Mr Austin said that he would not be able to solve all those problems immediately and definitively, for he would not be in the ministry for too long, but that he was going to make an effort to diminish the seriousness of the problem.

The minister thanked everyone for the welcome he received and prepared to leave for Gonaives. However, a group of injured peasants, [words indistinct], victims of attempted murder—surrounded the minister to ask for justice and that he arrest the guilty parties, who were still free. All of the peasants were talking at once. The minister had a lot of trouble hearing them. Nevertheless, he promised them justice.

At 1120, the minister and the rest of the delegation left for Gonaives. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Communal Committee To Run Port-au-Prince

FL0112004988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] A decree from the military government dated 28 November 1988 appoints a new communal committee to run Port-au-Prince, replacing Mrs Carmen Christophe's cartel. The new committee is made up of Mr Andre Juste, as magistrate and head of the committee; and William Romulus and Roger Courtois, as members. This press release comes from the National Palace and is dated 28 November 1988.

PRI Appoints New President, Secretary General

PA0512135688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Report by Abel Magana on statements by new PRI President Luis Donaldo Colosio—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Magana] As of today, Luis Donaldo Colosio is the new PRI president. Rafael Rodriguez Barrera is the new secretary general.

New PRI President Luis Donaldo Colosio called for a general debate within PRI to strengthen its democracy and thus democratize the country and help build a new order in which dissent does not turn into social rupture.

As the new PRI leader, Luis Donaldo Colosio said the debate has already become a demand for democracy and pluralism. He recalled that the forms of politics and the times have changed and that modernization has reached politics. Offering his support for the agreement calling for economic recovery and stability, he noted he understands this as he struggles side by side with workers, peasants, and the popular sectors to attain satisfaction for their just demands. Luis Donaldo Colosio added:

[Colosio] "PRI admits it can only continue achieving political victories to the extent that it avoids damaging the people's economy."

[Magana] The foreign debt, he said, is a very heavy burden and is hindering our people's development. He added, the people are demanding that the servicing and amortization of the foreign debt be made secondary to the nation's interests, and there will undoubtedly be pressure and opposition, both at home and abroad, when that demand is translated into state policy. However, the people and the party will support President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and any such opposition will be defeated. He also stated there is a loyal commitment to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, but he emphatically warned:

[Colosio] "However, any public servant on any level who yields, gives up, or betrays the good of the nation will have to face the party."

[Magana] Colosio added that the government takes actions, but the party feels the effects, because if one is irresponsible, the others have greater responsibilities. Therefore, PRI members will closely follow the government's actions. He warned, however, that this PRI rennovation will only be done by PRI members. He added:

[Colosio] "PRI has to be the political vanguard, otherwise its historical existence does not make any sense."

[Magana] In view of this, Luis Donaldo Colosio proposed 10 tasks that should be immediately fulfilled:

1. Effectively count its activists to know how many there are and where they are. He allocated 6 months to carry out this task.
2. Promote the incorporation of the best activists to the public administration.
3. Regroup the PRI forces. All those who have already been entrusted with high-ranking posts should participate in this task.
4. Strengthen the sectors with the necessary territorial structure to face apathy, simulation, inactivity, antidemocracy, and the opposition.
5. Assert the party's ideology and prevent others' disinformation from taking away what belongs to the party.
6. Keep the party active so all party members know what to do at all times.
7. Reestablish internal discipline based on confidence so it becomes a barrier to transient militancy and permanent blackmail.
8. Abandon the purely electoral use of the sectional and municipal committees to turn them into active centers of political activities.
9. Establish respect, militancy, and loyalty as the principles for becoming a party candidate.
10. At this moment, unity is the slogan, as well as struggling for freedom, liberty, justice and improving democracy.

Export-Import Bank To Provide Yen for Loans

OW0512062788 Tokyo KYODO in English 1448 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan has signed a contract in Mexico City to extend eight billion yen in bank loans to Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, SNC, a governmental financial institution, Ex-Im Bank officials said Thursday.

The loans are intended to provide capital for getting exports from Japan. Since the decison on whether to lend money is made on a case-by-case basis, Japanese exports to a small-sized Mexican business also have a chance of receiving loans, the officials said.

Japanese private financial institutions currently refrain from extending long-term loans to Mexico, leaving the guasi-governmental Ex-Im Bank as the sole Japanese money lender for Mexico.

PAN Issues Commitment Document, Details Plans

PA0412144988 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Nov 88 p 6

[Text of "National Commitment for Legitimacy and Democracy" document issued by the National Action Party [PAN] on 16 November in Mexico City]

In a few days, the new ceremony to swear in the new president of the Republic will take place, as the last stage of an electoral process corrupted to such an extent that no one can actually ascertain who won the 6 July presidential election.

In view of this fact, PAN states the following:
1. The mere formal ceremony to change command is not the same as legalizing the new head of the federal executive branch.
2. The power that will be established based on the official electoral results, approved only through favorable votes by PRI members, can only become legitimate to Mexicans by correctly and immediately exercising such power through the government's attitude during the first elections under the new administration, which will be held in Jalisco, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosi, and Zacatecas.
3. The new government will only attain legitimacy if from the 1st day in power, it acts as a transition government that obeys the people's mandate for democratization, pluralism, social justice, and national sovereignty expressed through the votes cast on 6 July, despite all the irregular actions that occurred.
4. PAN demands the new government actions be immediately and firmly oriented towards a peaceful and civilized evolution and towards rules of social and political coexistence based on respect of Mexican human, social, and political rights: through the government officials' respect of the laws in effect and through the modification of the country's economic, social, and educational structures so we can progress towards a more just and free society in which citizens have a greater participation and in which pluralism becomes part of the government structure.
5. PAN is against, and will strongly oppose with all the means available, government actions not within the aforementioned principles.
6. PAN feels responsible democratic opposition does not imply the permanent obstruction of government action as an end in itself; instead, the functions of the opposition transcend partisan limits to pursue Mexico's highest interest. Therefore, in an effort to initiate the process of legitimization through the actual exercise of power, and the transition to full democracy, we demand of the government that will take office on 1 December a public discussion of the following points, so we can seek the best solutions for the Mexican people through a rational and respectful dialogue.

I. Economic and Social Policy

A. Modification of the legal norms ruling economic activities and drafting of an economic policy that will permit the following goals:
A.1 To provide a just and sufficient income so all Mexican workers can establish and or provide their families with decent housing, food, education, and health care.
A.2 To promote a situation as close as possible to full employment and the access for all Mexicans to the benefits of development.
A.3 To have greater freedom to take economic measures that would encourage an increase in the production of goods and services.
A.4 To recover the control by Congress in matters regarding revenues, budgets, public accounts, development plan, and the debt issue.
A.5 To review the agreements and documents referring to the financial commitments by the past administration abroad, as a step prior to reasonable renegotiation of foreign debt, under the ethical principle that it is not possible to pay the debt if the cost will mean the people's impoverishment.
A.6 To cease receiving new debts abroad.
A.7 To establish a percentage from total exports to pay the debt—taking into account variables such as revenues from tourism, trade balance, and international oil prices—and negotiation of the capital in real terms based on international law and not on private commercial laws.

B. Restructuring the laws and agrarian policies, seeking to obtain the following goals:
B.1 To improve the peasants' living conditions.
B.2 To recover, maintain, and develop the land to encourage production and agricultural productivity.
B.3 To encourage agriculture and the rational exploitation of the land through the land tenure systems established in the constitution—communal lands [ejidos], communal property [propiedad comunal], and small properties—and to correct the system of impractical small land tracts [minifundismo], whether these be communal lands or other tracts, and to guarantee the legal, political, and tactical protection of those constitutional land tenure systems.
B.4 To guarantee the necessary resources for peasants to secure the national food supply, so with the result of their work, peasants can live in suitable, decent economic conditions.
B.5 To reaffirm that small property ownership is the basis of the land tenure system.
B.6 To establish a mechanism to set just basic prices for agricultural products for the benefit of producers at the communal lands and other small farms.

C. To eliminate the illegal police corps and to organize, reorganize, and train the legal police corps to guarantee the peace, security, and order for Mexicans in the cities, rural areas, and on the roads.

D. To eliminate the constitutional regulations that restrict human rights and to establish strict vigilance on the respect of human rights by government officials.

II. Educational Policy

A. Modification of constitutional and other norms regarding education, seeking to attain the following goals:
A.1 To guarantee access to schools for the majority of Mexicans, respecting the cultural variety of the social groups that have lived and live in the country.
A.2 To guarantee parents their basic right to choose the kind of education they want for their children.
A.3 To prevent the state imposition of an ideology or concept of the world to students.
A.4 To incorporate the private schools' work into the national educational effort with full rights and recognition.
A.5 To eliminate the coercive laws that restrict or discriminate against nonpublic schools and their graduates.

A.6 To fully guarantee the autonomy and sufficient financial resources for all higher education institutions with no state or partisan interference.
A.7 To recognize the legal nature of amparo in educational matters.

III. Political Democracy

A. Modification of electoral laws as well as related constitutional procedures and the creation of required precepts to attain the following objectives:
A.1 To add political rights to the criteria of individual guarantees.
A.2 To accept amparo's legal basis in political matters within the legislative framework. This will enable the procedure to be operational and efficient.
A.3 To recover the Supreme Court's right to determine the constitutionality of electoral matters.
A.4 To define the functions and responsibilities of media in political matters.
A.5 To prepare a trustworthy and efficient electoral census; the entire census process is to be under the control of the political parties.
A.6 To prohibit corporate, voluntary, or forced affiliation to political parties and the deletion of such requirements from the statutes of related associations [sociedades intermedias].
A.7 To prohibit improper use of public resources or public employees for party purposes and to prohibit the use of the national flag's colors as a political party's distinguishing feature.

PAN considers the subjects highlighted are not all nor the only ones to be considered. However, PAN does believe these are topics that need to be discussed and agreed upon to reach a basic consensus about immediate actions to be taken—actions of a legislative and political nature that will allow us to initiate the legitimization of the new government for the good of the country and the solution to Mexico's serious problems.

Dialogue must be public and reasonable. We do not favor the policy of all or nothing. We have not chosen the road to revolt—even under especially undemocratic and rebellious circumstances—nor have we irresponsibly called for rebellion. Our policy is shared today by many who criticized it yesterday. Our democratic will and political seriousness has been evident throughout almost ½ a century of our party's existence. We are the opposition party with more representatives in the union's congress, and we have the support of an important segment of Mexican society.

Based on our political philosophy, history, invariable position, and solid principles, we invite the government and other political forces in the country to a dialogue that will lead to reconciliation and unity. In a clear, public, and formal national agreement, we will attain legitimacy and democracy. As Manuel Gomez Morin, we are convinced that today "our minimum duty is to find—no matter how serious the differences that separate us—common grounds in action and thought. It is essential we reach such grounds now." Mexico City, 16 November 1988
Luis H. Alvarez, President
Abel Vicencio Tovar, General Secretary

El Salvador

Duarte Requests Annulment of Electoral Reforms

PA0412131288 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Nov 88 p 3

[Excerpt] In an unprecedented action during the current Christian Democratic administration, President Jose Napoleon Duarte has resorted to the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of the electoral reforms recently approved and ratified by the Legislative Assembly, official sources have reported.

At the same time, the left-wing coalition Democratic Convergence and the National Conciliation Party expressed their opposition to the Electoral Code reforms and urged Duarte to send this case to the Supreme Court.

The president's request and copies of the reforms were delivered on the afternoon of 28 November, at the end of the day's hearings, to Constitutional Court Secretary Gregorio Enrique Trejo, who confirmed this yesterday morning.

The court has 15 days to issue a ruling on the 46 electoral reforms approved 2 weeks ago by the Salvadoran Congress and which were ratified a week ago by the Congress, overriding the veto imposed by the executive branch.

Duarte's request is based on Article 138 of the political Constitution, which establishes that the executive branch can address the court within 3 days after the ratification by the Legislative Branch so that the highest tribunal, after hearing the petitions by the two branches, may determine whether or not the law in dispute is constitutional. [passage omitted]

Democratic Convergence Fears ARENA 'Fraud'

PA0212142588 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] has said that because of the Electoral Code reforms that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has rammed through the Legislative Assembly, there is now a danger of fraud in the 1989 March elections.

The CD today accused ARENA of promoting fraud in the upcoming elections through the Electoral Code reforms. The leaders of the leftist coalition today described the reforms approved by the Legislative Assembly, which is dominated by ARENA, as negative and as an aggression against people's movements. The new code includes clauses that negate the people's votes, [CD leader] Dr Ruben Zamora said:

[Begin recording] ARENA wants to reduce the number of voters by impeding the registration of voters during the 45 days before the elections. The reforms hurt people's movements. Social groups now face a new penalty: Any such group campaigning for any party loses its legal status. [end recording]

We have had four elections since the coup against General Carlos Humberto Romero in 1979. [CD leader] Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo says ARENA is plotting fraud because it is losing popular support to the CD. Ungo said that this has been the finding of a University of Central America poll, adding:

[Begin Ungo recording] We know this election campaign is totally unfavorable and undemocratic because there is no real democracy. There is no equitable test of party strength, as we see it, because we are enduring fear and intimidation. We have to defeat fear. [end recording]

The CD and President Duarte have a common position on the reforms. Duarte vetoed the reforms and has called them unconstitutional. Although the elections are only 3 months away, the situation is not improving and the people appear to be undecided. The CD has said that ARENA is a weak movement that wants to manipulate the forthcoming elections. According to the CD, the elections will not help solve the nation's crisis.

May Not Run in Elections

PA0512142088 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Salvadoran political parties' doubts regarding guarantees for fair elections have become more firm. The Democratic Convergence [CD] has warned that it may decide not to participate in the process because of the increasing probability of fraud.

Nearly 3 months before elections, the political panorama is unclear because the parties have started accusing each other of irregularities in the electoral register. The disagreement, however, started when the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] and the Authentic Christian Movement ignored the presidential veto and supported the electoral code amendments that, according to some, complicate the electoral process and pave the way for fraud by eliminating the vote count verification mechanisms. Ruben Zamora, CD coordinator general, sums up this situation:

[Begin recording] The parties, particularly ARENA and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], have taken the electoral campaign to the Central Electoral Council. I think both the PDC and ARENA should understand that the electoral campaign must be carried out openly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Zamora has said the CD may withdraw from the electoral process if it becomes unreliable:

[Begin recording] If the situation continues like this or worsens, there will be no fair elections in this country. Elections will not be reliable. In addition, the CD will not lend itself to an electoral farce. [end recording]

Ungo Reviews Election Platform, Power Structure

PA0512142888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Nov 88 p 13

[Report by Norma Nunez Montoto on "exclusive" ALASEI interview with Salvadoran FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo in Panama City in November; exact date not given]

[Text] Panama City, Nov [no date as published] (ALASEI)—In an exclusive interview with ALASEI, Salvadoran presidential candidate Guillermo Manuel Ungo confirmed the four fundamental points that make up the Democratic Convergence's [CD] platform. The CD will participate in the 19 March elections with the Guillero Ungo-Mario Reni Roldan slate.

For the CD, the four chief problems are:

1. A war situation that constrains any national project. Therefore, it supports a peaceful solution through negotiations, not a military victory.

2. The growing loss of sovereignty. Therefore, the CD will try to restore it.

3. The lack of real democracy expressed in the numerous human rights violations. The CD's struggle in this respect aims at democratizing power, "because whenever there is repressive power, democracy cannot exist."

4. The pressing economic situation, "which requires an economic plan to help the people."

The CD is composed of the Social Christian People's Movement, led by Ruben Zamora; the National Revolutionary Movement, which belongs to Socialist International; and the Social Democratic Party, led by Mario Reni Roldan. Roldan is a highly respected surgeon in his country.

There are three major rival forces in El Salvador's political scene. Two of them faithfully adhere to the U.S. plan. The extreme right wants to negotiate with greater conditions of autonomy to implement an obsolete plan. Then there is the CD "as the rebel option, to some degree."

However, the CD "is not in a hurry." It will not participate in the elections to win the Presidency. "In El Salvador, the elections are not the source of power.... Duarte got the votes and believed he had it (power). He has less power than when he was the president of a de facto government junta. He has become a U.S. puppet and a subordinate of the Army. As long as there is no change in the correlation of power and in the politics of those two major factors (the United States and the Army), elections in El Salvador will not be a source of power," Ungo noted.

He added: "The democratic conditions do not exist to compete under equal conditions.... We receive ambivalent treatment from the major factors of power. We are tolerated as long as we do not cause any harm. They want us to be a very well-behaved 'bonsai left.' However, when the tree starts growing, the root and branches are permanently trimmed in a controlled process."

"The Army is always accusing us and identifying us with the guerrillas. It accuses both of us of military operations although it is obvious we are an unarmed organization," he said.

Views FMLN Stance on Elections

PA0212134188 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Report by Francisco Espinoza on statements by FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo in San Salvador; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Begin Ungo recording] In general terms, the FMLN's stance has not prevented elections. The FMLN's stance is not different from ours; that is, a war is being waged. The FMLN regards the elections as an instrument used against it from a political and military standpoint. This is the way the government wants to infiltrate areas under FMLN control. Therefore, the FMLN stance on the elections is not surprising. [end recording]

Ungo termed the current violence here as state terrorism. Still, he admitted the guerrillas will accept the elections in some way.

[Begin Ungo recording] I believe the elections will change the FMLN's position. However, we have to wait longer to see how the FMLN evolves and to see how it acts as we approach the elections. Nevertheless, I think that although the FMLN may accept the elections, and despite differences between the FMLN and (?us) on this point, its stance will not greatly influence the views of the Salvadoran people and citizens regarding the elections. [end recording]

Ungo made those remarks upon arriving at San Salvador's city offices with other members of his party to pick up their electoral cards to be able to vote for the next Salvadoran president in March.

Death Squads, Restrictions on Army Viewed

PA0212175688 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report by Joel Burgos—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce [chairman of the Salvadoran Joint Chiefs of Staff] appeared before the Legislative Assembly today. The Assembly offered to loosen legal [word indistinct] on the Armed Forces to win the war.

Some groups believe the country entered a crisis with the 15 October 1979 military coup. Since then, El Salvador has suffered a civil war that is getting worse and causing more casualties. There are now two disturbing changes in the war: First, corpses are being dumped on the roadside, which reminds us of the early 1980's when death squads were active. Second, urban guerrilla activity is increasing. The Armed Forces are justifiably concerned about those issues.

[Ponce] "I never talk about death squads. I talk about violence and the actions of the right- and left-wing groups. The Army is determined, and is making all the necessary efforts, to counter those violent actions, regardless of which groups carry them out."

Col Ponce met with members of the Legislative Assembly Defense and Public Security Committee today.

After 8 years, the war seems to be endless. ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] believes that a solution to the crisis could be the formation of a common front that will set up a national strategy and also loosen legal restrictions on the Armed Forces.

[ARENA Deputy Sigifredo Ochoa] "We must set up a national strategy, because we cannot let the guerrillas kill us. I think that we must act within the law. I think we must loosen the legal restrictions on the Army, because the Army can be effective but has its hands tied. [Words indistinct] in its own country, it has been rejected for having defended communist guerrillas [words indistinct], which in [word indistinct] itself is considered as [words indistinct]. We cannot understand how can it defend a criminal position. It is time for us to rally around a single purpose."

There can still be a peaceful solution to the crisis. Christian Democratic Party [PDC] presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena said he will seek a dialogue with the guerrilla movement. Meanwhile, ARENA will make its own proposal to the FMLN.

[Ochoa] "The PDC promised to achieve peace. That is an illusion. That is what the PDC candidate is proposing. Chavez Mena has been in the government for years, and the government will not change its strategy. That proposal is merely a smokescreen.

"We have been very clear about this. We must sit down to talk with the rebels within a strict time limit and without so much demagogy. We are willing to talk with the FMLN-FDR. We want to make a proposal to them—not an ARENA proposal, but a national proposal."

Defense Minister on Counterinsurgency Measures

PA0412131588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Villareal] Defense and Public Security Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova admitted today that the Armed Forces' hands are tied in its struggle against the guerrillas. Vides Casanova agreed with Legislative Assembly Vice President Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, saying that this has come about in the Army because the Armed Forces want to guarantee the democratic process and respect human rights to win popular support.

[Vides] "I think concern for the democratic process and human rights naturally slows the military down in achieving its goal. We must also bear in mind, however, that in a war such as the one in which we are engaged, victory is basically achieved through the people's support and not through the use of weapons.

I do believe that, although we have been strongly tied down, the important thing is to know that if we ever face a situation of crisis, we will be capable of employing whatever resources necessary to save our country.

Even though I think we would like sometimes to act much more forcefully, the Armed Forces are aware that in the long run more has been gained than lost by respecting human rights."

[Villareal] Vides Casanova also encouraged present-day politicians to seek the Army's support in their counterinsurgency struggle.

[Vides] "In the future, politicians will have to become aware of the Armed Forces' need for better mechanisms to fight subversion. I think we are doing this rather well. We will always have more problems, even with laws, etc. I think, at best, we will gain the people's support—which is, of course, the most important thing in this kind of struggle. The people need to see there is a professional armed force that acts professionally and is capable of establishing order and guaranteeing the people's freedom.

Of course, if our hands were not bound, we could solve this problem sooner. However, this would not guarantee that we would win the war, nor would it guarantee that another war would not break out from the aftermath of hatred and violence."

[Villareal] Vides Casanova, referring to the wave of violence that has taken over San Salvador and its outskirts, stated that the Army is in full control of the entire country. He added that this does not mean that there is a need to correct the performance of his military units.

[Vides] "I have always said that only one thing is certain in a war: Nothing is certain. The truth is that we have control over the situation throughout the nation's territory. It is always possible for the guerrillas to strike a blow; they normally pick an area we might not be watching so closely at a given time. This should help us to reflect upon the security measures we are taking and the mistakes we might be making at a given time. At times, we must learn from our mistakes. We are studying all of the incidents that have been occurring to improve our units' performance."

[Villareal] Gen Vides Casanova announced a new military operation in light of the upcoming 1989 elections. The Armed Forces have requested a series of facts from the Central Electoral Council to determine what security measures the military and security forces will take.

Air Force Chief Backs 'Military Solution'

PA0512152188 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Salvadoran Air Force Chief General Juan Rafael Bustillos today said violence will increase in the coming months prior to the elections and that there must be a military solution to the armed conflict, although many think this solution should be a political one.

Bustillos accused the rebels of creating death squads and increasing violence, which devastates the population and economy. He advocates the Assembly's passing legislation allowing the Army to carry out larger counterinsurgency operations:

[Begin recording] The FMLN has its political arm here, which is now legal because the Central Electoral Council has given it the opportunity to form political parties. I think that if the FMLN acts in bad faith, it would be very difficult to eradicate violence in the cities. The FMLN should let the politicians they have sent to San Salvador and other large cities manage by themselves. In addition, these politicians should not be criticized by the people. I think the FDR should condemn these violent FMLN activities at all times instead of halfheartedly criticizing the FMLN. The FDR presently has a great responsibility, because parties related to the FMLN have been organized. [end recording]

Since April, the Armed Forces have been requesting the approval of certain legislation giving them a free hand in urban and rural counterinsurgency operations. [passage omitted]

Soyapango Mayor's Office Bombed; Casualties

PA0412170288 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Dec 88 p 70

[Excerpt] At approximately 1915 [on 30 November] a bomb exploded on the southern outer wall of the Soyapango mayor's office, scarcely a few meters from the city's metropolitan police headquarters.

Paramilitary sources reported that the explosive device damaged a vehicle bearing license plate No 5-209 that was parked in front of the mayor's office and the windows of a nearby Evangelical church and neighboring houses. The device was thrown by unidentified persons from a moving vehicle.

The sources said two people tried to sabotage the National Telecommunications Administration facilities in Soyapango, but when they saw the police inside the facilities, they withdrew rapidly from the site and headed toward the mayor's office.

The mayor's office is under 24-hour guard by the city police, whose headquarters are less than 8 meters from the spot where the bomb exploded.

The wounded were transferred by Green Cross personnel to various health care centers. The names of the victims are: Roberto Castellanos, 37, and Ana Delmi Escalante de Castellanos, 37, who were passing by the spot when the bomb exploded, and Maria del Carmen Claros Montes, 25, who was admitted to the Social Security hospital.

In a separate incident at 1900, a bomb was thrown from the street by unidentified persons at a brothel known as Gloria Seisa, causing only property damage. [passage omitted]

Bombs Explode in San Salvador Neighborhood

PA0312225788 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Report by Walter Hernandez, from Miralvalle, San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] We are on Miralvalle Avenue, to the west of the capital, where this morning two powerful explosions nearly destroyed the Limena Pharmacy, owned by Antonia Guzman located on San Antonio Abad Boulevard, and the house of Colonel Lisandro Zepeda, head of the Army ground forces, who is the brother of the chief of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

We were told by a National Police spokesman on the scene at the Limena Pharmacy that one policeman was injured on the chin by shrapnel or flying glass from the windows.

No one was injured at Col Cepeda's house, the front of which was partially damaged. It stands two houses away from where the attack took place at approximately 0635 this morning. This, of course, is the work of FMLN urban commandos. [passage omitted]

Coprefa Summarizes Nov Rebel, Army Actions

PA0512152488 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Staff, through Coprefa, has reported that 93 FMLN-FDR terrorists were killed and 115 were wounded during clashes with the Army in November. In addition, the Army seized 105 rifles of various calibers, 2 M-60 machineguns, 20 revolvers, 55,450 cartridges of various calibers, 168 fragmentation grenades, 9 radio sets, and much material for manufacturing explosives. In addition, 236 booby traps were defused.

In the same period, the terrorists murdered 43 peasants and kidnapped 32. Also, 6 people were killed and 23 were either injured or maimed by FMLN-planted antipersonnel mines.

The rebels destroyed six mayors' and six National Administration for Telecommunications offices and six telephone junction boxes. They damaged 4 National Salvadoran Railroad trains, 10 light vehicles, and 5 buses. The terrorists also destroyed 46 towers, 136 posts, and 11 transformers.

On 25 November, the rebels murdered Napoleon Villafuerte, the mayor of Sesori, San Miguel, who had been kidnapped 2 days earlier. His body was found near Amapala. Seven other mayors have been killed by FMLN-FDR criminals. Not one of the organizations that allegedly watch over human rights in El Salvador has yet said a word.

North of Soyapango, San Salvador, four civilians were riddled with gunfire by FMLN-FDR urban commandos because the civilians had seen the guerrillas set a bus on fire and strafe another. The victims' names are Jose Cruz Vasquez, 25; Jose Mario Martinez Flores, 24; Jose Maria Rivas, 18; and Rigoberto Abrego Ochoa, 27. Three civilians were killed and five wounded in three terrorist actions in several departments. The victims, Gregorio and Jesus Quichas, were killed when they stepped on an antipersonnel mine in Meanguera, Morazan. In Concepcion Batres, criminal extremists murdered Victor Manuel Pena and then wounded his daughter, Anabelle Diaz Pena, when they dropped a fragmentation grenade on her father's body. Finally, four other civilians were injured when terrorists hurled an explosive device at the Soyapango mayor's office.

Recent FMLN Actions, Attacks Reported

Radio Station Seized

PA2911204988 San Salvador Radio Vanguardia in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 Nov 88

["Message" issued by "FMLN urban military units" after "seizing" radio station on 29 November; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Attention. Salvadoran people, local and foreign press, pay close attention. This is a message from the FMLN urban military units. Please accept fraternal and combative greetings. We are on a war footing. We will not weaken or take a single step backward in our march toward revolutionary triumph.

We are conducting our front's military campaign with revolutionary joy. Within that campaign, we are constantly dealing harsh blows on the puppet Army throughout the country. We carried out several attacks on several Army brigades, and we have increased our actions in the western part of the country. We also dealt harsh blows to the Army's rearguard, including the recent attack on National Guard units here in San Salvador.

We have also warned the Yankee henchmen that we will not allow them to continue to stain our homeland and that we will fight against them until final victory.

The Christian Democratic regime is increasingly sinking in its own bankruptcy. The counterinsurgency plan created and imposed by the U.S. Government is in open crisis and its defeat cannot be hidden. All the changes ordered by the U.S. Embassy in the Army elite will be useless.

All these years, during which the Salvadoran people have been subjected to the criminal, warmongering policy of the Yankee government through the enormous expenditures used to set up the Christian Democratic circus, to maintain Duarte as its main puppet and to maintain an Army of disproportionate dimensions, have not been enough to weaken the iron will of the people, who are determined to attain their final liberation.

The arrival of Bush to the U.S. presidency is accompanied by the clear defeat of the counterinsurgency strategy. The changes the Pentagon will try to make in its warmongering policy will not affect our plans at all and will not halt the unstoppable march of the peoples movement toward power.

Elections play an important role within the counterinsurgency policy. In our country, elections have served to deceive people and enrich a few. Elections have never served to solve any of the majorities' basic problems. This time elections are part of a counterinsurgency plan. They have begun a millionaire political campaign, which uses the people's money to offer only two alternatives: the corrupt and the criminal. The Salvadoran people will not allow more deceptions and electoral farces.

The organization of and the progress made by the peoples movement and its frequent victories bring us closer to final rebellion and the attainment of power. This struggle will lead us to a fair, free, and sovereign homeland.

Attention. Pay close attention. This is a message from the FMLN urban units.

We call on all Latin American peoples to reject U.S. interference in Latin America and in our glorious Central America. The recent OAS General Assembly meeting proved that there are more and more governments that are not willing to let arrogant Yankees lead the destiny of our continent.

Our continent is being exploited by an unpayable foreign debt and by a relationship of economic dependence, which only favors the interests of the great U.S. capital at the expense of our people's poverty.

We repudiate the presence of ill-fated George Shultz in our country. With his attitude, he once again showed his government's contempt toward Latin America.

We want to tell our people that any U.S. Embassy official linked to the Yankee intervention as well as any building occupied by a U.S. multinational corporation in our country will be considered a military target by our forces.

We call on our people to join the fair people's struggle and to turn every workplace and every neighborhood into a foxhole against the enemy. We remind Salvadorans to avoid approaching military targets because our forces are filled with a fighting spirit to defeat the enemy.

We urge everybody to be alert to the guidelines the vanguard fighters will issue to prepare decisive actions in our struggle.

Brace yourselves and get ready for the final rebellion. United to fight until final victory. Revolution or death, we will win.

[Signed] FMLN

Attacks, Casualties Cited

PA0512145588 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 3 December carries approximately 10 minutes of reports on recent guerrilla activities.

Reporting on FMLN activities on the "Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front," the station states that on 3 December the guerrillas set an ambush with three "Manuel Jose Arce" mines in the path of a "criminal" Civil Defense patrol in Candelaria on the road from Santiago Texacuangos to San Miguel Tepezontes, La Paz Department. The reports says that after an 8-minute skirmish, those members of the Civil Defense patrol who had not been eliminated "fled in complete disarray." The station claims the guerrillas inflicted seven casualties on the Army and seized rifles and other military equipment. The report adds that another soldier was injured in the same area later that day when he walked into a mine field.

Turning to the "Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front," the station reports that at 1600 on 2 December, units of "the enemy Domingo Monterrosa" walked into a field mined by guerrillas. It states that one soldier was wounded. The station claims that on 3 December the same unit again walked into a mine field and that this time four soldiers were injured.

Nov Actions Summarized

PA0412165088 [Editorial Report](Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 2 December reports the results of November clashes: "Our guerrilla army inflicted 991 casualties in November; 432 of these casualties were inflicted in 38 ambushes. They included one colonel and eight officers who were wounded. The colonel is Jose Humberto Gomez, who was hit by shrapnel at the National Guard headquarters. The casualties also included six sergeants, nine corporals, four radio operators, and a Civil Defense commander.

"The following were destroyed: 20 military trucks, 3 armored vehicles, 6 garrison houses, and many weapons.

"Sabotage actions resulted in the destruction of the following: 209 powerline structures, 1 electricity substation, and 5 Salvadoran National Railroad engines.

"Our guerrilla army seized the following from the puppet army: 12 G-3 rifles, 7 carbines, 19 M-16 rifles, 2 PRC-77 radios, 2 9-mm pistols, 3 .22-caliber rifles, 1 Czechoslovak-made rifle, 4 .22-caliber pistols, 6 .38-caliber revolvers, 1 M-72 LAW rocket launcher, several thousand rounds, and other military supplies."

The same Radio Venceremos broadcast carries an additional 20 minutes of military reports on fighting with the Salvadoran Army. The first report is from the joint command of the the Modesto Ramirez Central Front's Guazapa Hill sector on a campaign called: "Death to Reagan Policies, Yankees Out of El Salvador!" The radio says that on 29 and 30 November, FMLN units carried out several actions. The first one took place at 0430 on 30 November when El Roblar Military Base, 16 km from San Salvador, was attacked. The station refers to the base as "one of the most important ones" in the country. There were 200 soldiers at the base from diverse units. The radio station then goes on to provide information on the results of the attack. "There were 127 casualties, including dead and wounded"; the casualties include four officers. In addition, the base installations, eight repeater stations, and important documents were destroyed. According to the report, the following material was seized: 6 M-16 rifles, 12 grenades for M-79 grenade launchers, 2 Claymore mines, 8 knapsacks, and large amounts of military equipment such as uniforms, cartridge clippers, and ammunition.

Continuing with the Modesto Ramirez Central Front's report, Radio Venceremos states that at 0130 on 30 November guerrilla units clashed with positions of the Pantera Battalion of the National Police in the La Cruz neighborhood, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department. In this clash, three policemen were killed and five were injured. Later that day, guerrilla cells attacked 1st Infantry Brigade soldiers who were guarding the Lempa River Hydroelectronic Executive Commission ministation in Nejapa; five soldiers were injured, and the installation was partially destroyed.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 3 December carries 5 minutes of reports on recent FMLN military actions.

The first report describes a guerrilla ambush in La Union Department. According to Venceremos, "a few hours ago in La Union, FMLN units ambushed a military convoy with three powerful Manuel Jose Arce mines, inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy."

Further information on another action in La Union Department indicates that "in the last few hours, on 1 December, urban FMLN commando units used three powerful Manuel Jose Arce mines to ambush a truck that was carrying military training personnel from the Armed Forces Studies Center in San Carlos neighborhood, La Union, inflicting several casualties on the puppet army, including dead and wounded."

Honduras

Azcona: Contra Humanitarian Aid To Continue

PA0312133688 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Jose Azcona Hoyo said yesterday in Mexico City that his government will continue to allow "humanitarian" aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries to pass through Honduras. Azcona said this policy would be carried out regardless of "who likes it or does not," because not to do so would be a "crime against humanity."

Azcona held a news conference upon his arrival in Mexico City, where he will attend the inauguration of Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari today.

In his statements, Azcona referred to the stagnation of the Central American peace process and the problems facing Latin America.

Azcona said it is "absolutely false" that the Honduran Government is sabotaging the Central American peace negotiations. "Honduras is not playing a double role in the Central American negotiations; Honduras signed Esquipulas II. Honduras is the country that has complied 100 percent with the provisions of Esquipulas II," said Azcona.

"Now there is talk that we are allowing humanitarian aid to be delivered to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, which is true. We are doing this as a humanitarian gesture, and we are going to continue doing it regardless of who likes it or does not—Nicaragua or any other country. We do it because Honduras' security comes first. Not to do so would be a crime against humanity," he added.

President Azcona said the contras were already in Nicaragua when the Sapoa agreement was signed, but because the Sandinist government designated two enclaves for the contras bordering on Honduras, the contras have returned to Honduran territory.

He said he cannot explain why the Sandinist government left those enclaves on the border, which together cover more than 100 square km, "when it was logical to assume that the counterrevolutionaries would go to Honduras if no progress was made on a permanent cease-fire. We are determined to reach a solution as quickly as possible."

Azcona explained that in Central America there are no wars between states, but civil wars. He added that "we in Honduras have been enjoying domestic peace for many years. The last war dead we had was during the 3-day war with El Salvador, when we were invaded by Salvadoran military forces in 1969."

Referring to the problems faced by Latin America, Azcona said this decade can be considered a loss for Latin America because "there are many problems in every country. We all know the origin of those problems: the drop in the prices of products that Latin America exports, the foreign debt, and a series of other factors, most of which are common to all countries."

In Azcona's opinion, all Latin American countries must force the international credit organizations, such as the IMF and the World Bank, to renegotiate the foreign debt.

Montoya Discusses Contras, Currency Devaluation

PA0212175288 Tegucigalpa Telecadena 7 y 4 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Interview with Carlos Montoya, National Congress president and candidate for the Liberal Party's presidential nomination, by unidentified reporter in studio asking listeners' questions—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr Freddy Sanchez of [word indistinct] wants to know what you would do with the contras during your administration. Would you be submissive to the United States?

[Montoya] The contras must leave Honduras because they [words indistinct] inside Nicaragua and this is a Nicaraguan (?problem). Honduras should respect constitutional mandates, the principles of nonintervention and self-determination, and advocate international peace and solidarity.

Thus, Honduras definitely cannot be [words indistinct] if it wishes to consolidate its democracy and not subject itself to international (?pressure) to help the contras. Each country should solve its own problems according to its own capabilities. The Nicaraguans should be allowed to freely solve their own problems without any meddling.

This is not a matter of being submissive or arrogant; it is a matter of looking after our national interests. I believe it is in the country's best interest to adhere to the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, and [words indistinct] problems in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Mr Jorge Alberto Romero of San Pedro Sula says he has heard that one of your main collaborators, Mr Javier Fernandez, has constantly said there will be a currency devaluation should you not win the elections. Can this be interpreted as revenge?

[Montoya] No, the devaluation [words indistinct] 3 years ago our monetary policy, because if the country produces only (?$750) million and needs $1.4 billion, we have to save or come up with the difference. However, we cannot live forever off a check from abroad or foreign aid. We must pay for certain projects.

At present, we are late in paying $300 million [words indistinct], we have (?no foreign financing for our projects), and production has not increased. Devaluation is an economic [words indistinct] protection of the currency.

In other words, if our government does not promote agricultural and forest development and curb imports, Honduras will not be self-sufficient with regard to its foreign currency budget program. [passage omitted]

FMLN Controlled Colomoncagua Refugee Camp

PA0412134988 Paris AFP in Spanish 0755 GMT
1 Dec 88

[Report by Nicole Martiche]

[Text] Colomoncagua, Honduras, 1 Dec (AFP)—Colomoncagua, the camp housing Salvadoran refugees who have fled their country and the death squads during the last 8 years, is today the most repressive camp in Honduras and undoubtedly in Central America.

It is surrounded on the outside by the Honduran Army, which has difficulties controlling the hills in this border area. Inside, the refugees are under the control of FMLN "committees" with impressive organization and determination.

Seeing Colomoncagua is like taking a guided tour, organized by the press "committee." There is a folkloric reception. Some 300 refugees, accompanied by violins and double basses, surround the reporters and sing a verse of their current demands.

"We want more support from the High Commissioner for Refugees [HCR], more solidarity, more security, more protection, more brethren to come see us...no to repatriation." Some slogans that are chanted accuse "the Honduran military, who slaughter our brethren to force us to repatriate."

The journalists are then taken to a meeting room, which has slogans painted on all the walls, and brought before the committee representatives. They are filmed, photographed, and registered by men who hide their faces behind black glasses.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the French humanitarian organization, was brought to task. It has just ended its assistance to the refugees in Honduras—both Salvadorans and Nicaraguans—because it does not approve of the type of organization imposed here.

In fact, the FMLN has turned Colomoncagua camp into a guerrilla base in Honduran territory. Everything is collective: From the kitchens to the shops, this is the most diversified and best-equipped camp in Honduras, where activities include sewing, mechanics, a bakery.... Slogans are posted everywhere reminding people of the most basic rules of personal hygiene and education.

There is even a penitentiary area to "educate" those who do not abide by the curfew imposed by the "committees." This is not shown, but one can see it.

The system works because the nongovernmental organizations (ONG) close their eyes and continue to provide material support. The French doctors preferred to leave. The FMLN control over the refugee camps is also evident by the policy adopted in the face of volunteer repatriation. The Colomoncagua refugees, who are near the border, refuse to return to their country "because conditions are not safe in El Salvador," they say. On the other hand, in Mesa Grande—40 km from the Salvadoran border—the FMLN orders the refugees to return to the country so they can be useful to the guerrillas.

To prepare a wave of repatriations, the FMLN is negotiating through communiques with President Jose Napoleon Duarte. In the October 1987 repatriation—when 40,000 refugees returned to the country in the area controlled by the guerrillas—the Salvadoran Government wanted it done in groups of 500 persons. However, it yielded in the face of the refusal by the FMLN, which had secretly planned for the refugees to return to the country in columns "led by women and children." This is the way it was done, and the refugees marched, celebrating "the victory of returning to the country."

Meanwhile, the Honduran Army reacts in a nervous manner. A little over 3 years ago—in August 1985—it went into the camp to arrest the leaders of the Salvadoran guerrillas. There were three dead and dozens of wounded among the refugees. The guerrilla leaders were released, thanks to the HCR, and sent to Canada.

Nicaragua

Ortega Cancels UN Visit Over U.S. Visa Issue

PA0512161388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] New York, 5 Dec—For the second time, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has canceled a planned visit to the United Nations because of the U.S. refusal to grant visas to his retinue, the Nicaraguan mission at the United Nations officially confirmed today. Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United Nations Alejandro Serrano

Caldera is to deliver a strong protest this morning over this "violation" of UN agreements by the United States, a Nicaraguan mission diplomat has reported.

Ortega on Canceled Visit, U.S. Relations

PA0512213588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1932 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 5 Dec (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced today in Mexico City that he will not visit the UN General Assembly because the United States tried to place conditions on his visit by denying visas to several members of his retinue.

The commander said he cannot accept the "U.S. rules." There is no excuse for restrictions that include denying U.S. visas to reporters and limiting the Nicaraguan president's movements while in New York, Ortega added.

In a good mood and protected by an exaggerated number of security agents, Ortega commented that accepting the conditions imposed by the United States would be the same as accepting that the authorities of that country can decide who can or cannot accompany a head of state on his trips abroad. [passage omitted]

While at the United Nations, President Ortega had planned to meet with Mikhail Gorbachev and speak before the assembly on the progress of the Central American peace plan and the obstacles blocking negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ortega recalled that the [Central American] foreign ministers agreed that a "summit" of Central American presidents will be held in January 1989 and, most importantly, they signed a document requesting that the United Nations create a mechanism for verifying and following up the agreements on regional security.

Daniel Ortega said Latin America, particularly Central America, is experiencing a period of dialogue and pluralism—following the agreement in Mexico—which is an opportunity that should not be missed. Otherwise, he said, there is the risk that the chances for negotiation could be "drastically reduced."

He also expressed his concern over the thwarted military rebellion in Argentina, saying "this reminds us of the situation in Chile during Salvador Allende's government."

Regarding U.S. President-elect George Bush, Ortega said that one can expect that someone who "is fully acquainted with the Reagan policy will face pressures from the U.S. right to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution."

According to the Nicaraguan president, Bush should seek a pragmatic solution to the Central Amercan crisis, as after 8 years of unsuccessful efforts to destroy the Sandinist revolution and the Salvadoran people's movement there are only two alternatives: intervention or negotiation.

Daniel Ortega said Latin American countries "should strengthen their solidarity" through the Group of Eight and establish an in-depth dialogue with the United States and other areas in the world in order to find solutions to regional problems.

'Solidarity Message' to Argentina's Alfonsin

PA0512140188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 88

["Text" of "solidarity message" from President Daniel Ortega to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin on 3 December from Mexico—read by announcer]

[Text] Constitutional President of Argentina Raul Alfonsin

Dear friend:

Hardly a few hours ago, we confirmed in Mexico the fraternal relations between the Argentine and Nicaraguan peoples in a Latin American context, which demands the unity of our peoples to ensure a future of justice, democracy, and peace.

Today we became concerned after learning that those who repressed and subjugated the heroic Argentine people have shown up once again, in a menacing manner, to try to block the openings that were created by the firm and combative commitment that you and your people have been able to achieve and defend.

As Latin American brothers and members of the Nonaligned Movement, may you and your people receive the solidarity of the Nicaraguan people and Government and our rejection of those who plot against the Argentine people.

I am sure, dear President, that you and your people will be able to defend and safeguard the constitutional regime, which resulted from the people's free will in the 1983 elections.

The combative and always fraternal support of Sandino's people, [Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra
Mexico, 3 December 1988

Ortega Returns From Mexican Inauguration

PA0512222888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2107 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Managua, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Managua from Mexico today after he canceled his trip to the United States because Washington did not grant visas in time to 32 members of his party.

Ortega returned to Managua at 1430 (2030 GMT) after spending 9 days in Mexico, where he attended the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The Nicaraguan president did not talk to the local and foreign journalists who were waiting for him at the Augusto Sandino Airport.

D'Escoto Views Peace Moves, Meetings

PA0312163588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1245 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by unidentified reporters at the Carrillo Gil Museum in Mexico City on 2 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Could you make a final evaluation of the activities conducted by Nicaraguan officials during Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration?

[D'Escoto] I would say everything has been extremely beneficial. It has even been more beneficial for us than we had expected. I say this because of the agreements that were signed at the Central American foreign ministers meeting that were later ratified by the presidents who were meeting here.

I also believe that the fact that Mexico has now joined the group of countries that usually invite other Latin American political leaders for events such as this is very beneficial. This is a very important means of preparing the way for this constant dialogue that should be maintained to preserve Latin American unity, which President Daniel Ortega just referred to in the speech he delivered during the inauguration of the solidarity exhibition at this museum.

[Reporter] First came the meetings in Ecuador during President Rodrigo Borja's inauguration, and now come these meetings in Mexico with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration. Could we speak of a new Latin American spirit?

[D'Escoto] In this regard, the most significant thing is that Cuba is being taken into account, as it should always have been in the past. Because of U.S. pressure Cuba was, unfortunately, always disregarded. Cuba is a country that has much to contribute in the struggle for peace and for Latin American justice. As you have pointed out, Borja's inauguration was the first time President Fidel Castro was invited to such an event. Now President Castro has been invited to come to Mexico. Obviously Nicaragua was also invited, but we were not going to be intimidated by the opinions [words indistinct] Latin American. I believe this is very important. I believe we are giving an example that, God willing, will continue to be followed. We are going to guarantee that these dialogues will be turned into something permanent among all Latin American countries.

[Reporter] The foreign ministers' meeting (?in Mexico City) and the progress made in implementing the Esquipulas agreements have caused surprise. I recall that you and other officials called it a pleasant surprise. What, in your opinion, has led to this change in the Central American presidents' attitude?

[D'Escoto] It is the result of a true desire for peace and independence. That was evident in Esquipulas, when all the Central American presidents signed the agreements. We must not doubt that it was almost a heroic feat at the time, because for many it meant rebelling against what they knew were the wishes of the United States, a country on which some Central American countries depend in an almost exclusive way.

Again we have the same situation: The same spirit that prevailed in Guatemala approximately 1 year ago, in August 1987, is again evident here. I believe this is new evidence of the situation that prevailed in Guatemala but that, to a certain degree, did not always have the necessary energy to match the desire. In this case, however, the presidents met at a time when the energy matched the desire. We are very pleased, and you have been able to ascertain that everyone was pleasantly surprised.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto] It means we must confirm our policy of struggling for Latin American peace and unity. I believe presidential inaugurations are important, particularly because they provide the opportunity for continuing a dialogue among Latin American politicians. We welcome the fact that this time Mexico decided to invite presidents of other nations—it is the first time such a thing was done in Mexico—and that it also decided to follow the example set by Ecuador a few months ago, by inviting Commander Fidel Castro. Castro's voice, presence, and significant contributions to the struggle for understanding, peace, and justice have been unjustly shunned by the U.S. Government's arrogance.

Iran Sends Aid for Hurricane Victims

PA0212210688 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Summary] An Iranian airplane arrived today in Nicaragua after a 20-hour nonstop flight, bringing 60 tons of food, medicine, and tents sent by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the victims of Hurricane Joan.

21-27 Nov Military Actions Reported

PA0212135688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Report by Auxiliadora Martinez]

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries carried out 22 attacks on civilians and EPS troops 21-27 November, the 5th Military Region Public Relations Office has reported.

The contras sustained 30 casualties in their criminal attacks on peasants and economic targets, which shows that the contra forces have been weakened despite the aid they receive from the U.S. Administration. While the government is making efforts toward peace, the counterrevolutionary forces have been carrying out merciless terrorist attacks on defenseless peasants, trying to disrupt the Nicaraguan revolution.

During the same period, 21-27 November, three civilians were murdered, three were kidnapped, and one was wounded. Twelve members of the El Guabo peasants settlement were killed; they heroically defended their land and their children, who have been orphaned by the mercenaries.

Government Captures 9 Contras 28-29 Nov

PA0212133988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1250 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Report by Auxiliadora Martinez]

[Text] Nine counterrevolutionaries were captured on 28 and 29 November in El Recreo, 8 km northweast of Paiwas, and El Zapote, Talolinga, in Nueva Guinea, Region 5.

A military source reported that the contras captured in El Zapote, Talolinga, on 28 November are Fernando Romero, Pedro and Migdonio Gonzalez, Alberto and Mario Giron, and Pablo Perez.

In El Recreo, Interior Ministry troops captured Tomas Luna, Jose and Raymundo Hilario Polanco Espinoza, and seized 3 rifles, 20 cartridges, Claymore mines, anti-personnel mines, detonating cord, 3 blankets, uniforms, belts, 2 harnesses, 200 AK rifle cartridges, and raincoats.

Price of Dollar Rises on Parallel Market

PA0312130188 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The price of the dollar has gone up twice this week on the parallel market. Last week, a dollar was worth 2,200 cordobas. The dollar went up to 2,300 cordobas on Tuesday, and today it rose to 3,000 cordobas on the parallel market. It is being sold in the street for 3,350 cordobas, with some people paying up to 3,800 cordobas for a dollar.

Panama

'News Agencies' Blamed for Argentina Rumors

PA0612003488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2342 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Statement by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] (?I spoke with) Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and I expressed my surprise and displeasure over news agency reports that the Panamanian Government was in some way involved in the events taking place in Argentina. Foreign Minister Caputo thanked me for my call. He told me that such reports had already been denied in Buenos Aires and that the intention was not and had never been to blame Panama, much less to break diplomatic relations.

When unfortunate, difficult situations occur in Argentina, some news agencies seem interested in tarnishing the relations between Argentina and Panama. It seems it is now becoming commonplace—I would say this is somewhat tragicomic—that each time there is an important event, big or small, in Latin America, efforts are made to implicate General Noriega. It is unthinkable that one would believe that an incident of the magnitude of the one that occurred in Argentina was planned or implemented from Panama. The incident was used for a new lie, but I am completely sure as well as pleased that the Argentine Government, through its foreign minister, was aware of the lie and of the false reports. Everything that was discussed in my telephone conversation with him on Saturday night was reiterated in a telegram that President Manuel Solis Palma sent President Raul Alfonsin. I think that was the end of what cannot even be called an incident. It was either a joke in bad taste by the news agencies or the result of a desire to tarnish the relations between Argentina and Panama.

Ambassador Claims Seineldin Helped by FDP

PA0612040088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0327 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (EFE)—Panamanian Ambassador to Argentina Eligio Salas today told Raul Alconada Sempe, Argentine secretary for special affairs, that his government "did not help Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin come to Argentina" but that "some sectors of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]" did so.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE some details of the meeting that was held today at the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was requested by Salas, who gave Alconada Sempe a communique from his embassy denying the reports that Panama would grant political asylum to Seineldin, who was arrested today.

Salas' explanation comes in the wake of a report on Sunday in which a diplomatic source in Buenos Aires stated that Seineldin had left Panama aboard a plane owned by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP. [passage omitted]

Defection of Cuban Official 'Confirmed'

PA0612044788 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 5 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] The defection of a Cuban official who was part of the delegation attending the Group of 77 meeting that ended last Friday at the Atlapa Convention Center was confirmed today by reliable sources.

According to information gathered by MEDIODIA, it is still not known if the Cuban delegate has requested asylum in any of the embassies accredited in our country.

It was also learned that the official left all of her belongings at the hotel where she was staying.

MEDIODIA reporters observed that Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora held an informal meeting last Friday with Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, but details of their conversation are unknown.

The ambassador had said earlier that he was unaware of any defection by a member of his country's delegation to the Group of 77 meeting.

Diplomatic Relations With USSR Debated

PA0312224688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1632 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Panama City, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Government and opposition sources today asserted that the establishment of trade relations with the Soviet Union, through a bill currently before the Legislative Assembly, represents the first step toward the establishment of diplomatic relations.

They explained that the agreement will actually give the Soviet trade delegation in Panama a quasi-embassy status, with all the immunities and privileges of a diplomatic mission.

A high-ranking government official admitted that trade relations with the Soviet Union represent a "first step" toward the establishment of diplomatic relations, but added that these will not immediately follow.

An "annex" to the agreement about the Soviet trade delegation's status in Panama—which was revealed by the newspaper MEDIODIA and, according to the same official, "should not have leaked out"—grants the mission personnel and installations "all the immunities and privileges" given to foreign diplomats.

Some opposition sectors criticize the bill being discussed in the Legislative Assembly not because of Soviet trade relations per se, but because the Foreign Ministry has submitted it at a time when relations with the United States are at the lowest point in decades.

Roberto Brenes, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, said to ACAN-EFE: "We agree that Panama should establish trade relations with all the countries of the world, including socialist bloc countries." However, he questioned "the fact that Manuel Solis Palma's government decided to establish trade relations with the Soviet Union now, even though an agreement on the issue has existed since 1977." He said that all the government was doing was "dusting off the agreement to intimidate the United States."

Washington maintains severe economic and trade sanctions against Panama with the intention of ousting the regime led by Solis Palma and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, who is accused in the United States of being linked to narcotics.

Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said the agreement will "benefit all Panamanians, especially those in private enterprise, who benefit the most in these cases because of the opportunity to sell in nontraditional markets."

Carlos Duque, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the majority party in the government coalition, considers it "proper" for the government to establish trade relations with the Soviet Union.

Cabrera Rejects U.S. Embassy Remarks

PA0212145388 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Dec 88 pp A-1, C-12

[Letter from acting Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera to Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, director of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA; issued 1 December in Panama City]

[Text] I am pleased to address you to request the cooperation of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in clarifying an annoying misunderstanding regarding the activities of the Commission To Study Alternatives for the Panama Canal, because the local and foreign press, intentionally or irresponsibly, have tried to make it look as if there is an unexplainable problem in an effort to hide the existence of the real problem.

First, I would like to refer to the fact that a note was published in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's 24 November issue, with statements signed by a Terrence Kneebone, who signed in his position as the U.S. Embassy's public affairs officer. I must note that the Panamanian Government declared a certain Terrence Kneebone, who was then a member of the U.S. staff accredited in Panama, persona non grata and gave him 48 hours to leave the country. Therefore, if this person is still in Panama, he is here as an illegal alien and should be treated as such by the media and by everyone who is zealous about the enforcement of the law and the safeguarding of the dignity of the country's authorities.

Kneebone was declared persona non grata because he made insulting remarks about Panama and its authorities, and a note on this matter was sent to the U.S. Embassy in accordance with the Vienna Convention of 1961.

Kneebone, or the person who signed the statements published by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA under that name, is a member of the team of disinformation agents that the U.S. Government assigned to Panama. The contents of the statements that prompted me to write

this letter fit the pattern followed so far, which is to present lies as truths and to hide the truth through suppression, distortion, and false statements.

Finally, to clearly show the crazy extremes reached by the arrogant U.S. Embassy—if it intends to be represented by someone who is in Panama in violation of our immigration laws—I will explain what happened in detail. This will fully show that the U.S. State Department, when it is to its benefit, will try to reach agreements with a government it does not recognize, allegedly based on obligations made in international agreements which, with the biggest nerve and unbelievable frequency, it unilaterally ignores.

1. In the note published by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 24 November, Kneebone indicated that "the contract in mention had been granted, subject to negotiation, to a consortium headed by Nippon Koei 10 months ago."

The commission's files show that during the fifth meeting of the commission's Board in Panama on 14 and 15 January 1988, the following decision was made: "The Board drew up a short list of two consortia. Consortium No 2 (SINBOL) was first. SINBOL is composed of LOMOSA, Inc.; Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation; Nippon Koei Co. Ltd.; the Industrial Bank of Japan, Ltd.; and the Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan. [quotation marks as published]

Consortium No 4 was second. Constortium No 4 is composed of Ingenieria y Arquitectura, Inc.; Louis Berger International, Inc.; Japan Overseas Consultants, Co., Ltd.; Kiso-Jiban Consultants Co., Ltd.; and CTI Engineering Co.

As part of the instructions dealing with the actions to reach an AF/IF [expansion unknown] agreement, which responds to the interests of the three country members of the study commission, the fifth meeting of the commission's Board also reached the following decision:

"(g) The Board ordered that only the cost proposal by Consortium No 2 (which won) is to be opened in preparation for negotiating a contract. The cost proposal by the consortium that came in second (Consortium No 4) is to remain unopened, in case the negotiations with Consortium No 2 are unsuccessful. If so, Consortium No 4's cost proposal would be opened. Cost proposals by Consortia 1, 3, and 5 are to be returned unopened to their respective senders."

It is in the U.S. delegation's desperation to sign at any cost the contract with SINBOL where Kneebone contradicts himself. In one part [of his note] he mentioned a contract that is subject to negotiation. In another, he said the contract was already awarded.

2. Kneebone notes: "... it is false and completely groundless that the political crisis is the reason why the study has not moved forward."

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Government plan of aggression against Panama accounts for the little interest that the study commission has shown, by the actions of the U.S. delegation, since the beginning. On this matter, the Panamanian delegation sent the U.S. delegation, on 14 October 1988, Note No P-01-87, which specifically states:

"Since the Commission To Study Alternatives to the Panama Canal was established on 26 September 1985, it has been clear that your country's commissioners and delegates have little interest in complying with the agreements made by the study commission and the decisions approved by the commission's Board."

For now, I deem it sufficient to refer to the communications sent by the Panamanian delegation to the distinguished U.S. and Japanese delegations, specifically through Notes 081, 082, 083, 084, 085, and 086, so the little interest and seriousness of the U.S. delegation in complying with the tripartite agreement is clearly seen.

Besides the numerous obstacles raised by the U.S. delegation to prevent the Executive Secretariat from complying with all the instructions given at the commission Board's meetings, the Panamanian delegation was concerned from the start that the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners, which should have been held on January 1986, was postponed on six (6) occasions at the request of the United States. It was not until 2 January 1986 that the long-awaited inauguration ceremony was held.

The Panamanian delegation was also concerned over the U.S. Government's delay in formalizing the appointments of the commission members as well as the delegation's experts. To this effect, we recall that in 2 years the United States has changed its primary representative five times, and it was not until 27 August 1987 that it appointed the primary commission members and the alternate commission members. By that time the study commission had been working for 23 months.

The U.S. delegation recently rushed into signing the AF/IF contract with SINBOL without complying with the agreements and instructions of the members of the commission's Board of Directors. This action shows to the Panamanian delegation the U.S. side's unprofessional attitude and hidden interests in trying to get a contract signed without complying with the requirements. These requirements were made to ensure a high-quality professional study—according to the interests of the represented governments—and reflected the aims of the three parties as included in the agreements.

The aforementioned attitude of the U.S. delegation has reached the extreme of sending false reports to the media. To this effect, the weekly EL BOLETIN published on 17 October 1988 the following information provided by the U.S. delegation: "The tripartite commission for studying alternatives to the Panama Canal announced this week that it has begun negotiations for signing a contract with an international consortium."

This is another example of how the U.S. representatives are trying to apply pressure so that the contract with the SINBOL consortium will be signed immediately, no matter what, and based on dishonest procedures.

It is inconceivable that the U.S. representatives are pressing for the negotiation of a contract with the SINBOL consortium if there are still many issues to be complied with, including—among others—the following agreements and decisions of the commission's Board of Directors:

A. To hire legal advisers to establish the study commission's position on the applicable legal methods and means of arbitration, to comply with the conditions established in the studies, to sign a single contract that will establish the consortium's responsibility, and so forth.

B. To reach a unified position by the Executive Secretariat on the technical proposal and the costs proposal.

C. To determine the duration of the contract.

3. Kneebone resorts to the method of lying that is scientifically known as "saying the opposite" when he says the U.S. Government is firmly committed to the agreement that established the 1985 study commission, in spite of the slow progress and the continuous difficulties caused by others." [quotation marks as published] In fact, the U.S. representatives' actions indicate the exact opposite.

The Panamanian delegation has consistently pointed out to the U.S. delegation, through Notes 081, 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, and 087, the slowness of its actions as well as the failure to comply with accords and decisions of the commission's Board. For example:

a. The fifth meeting of the commission's Board held on 14 and 15 January 1988 ordered the following:

"Make a list of at least three (3) internationally-renowned law firms that may be hired to give legal assistance to the study commission during contractual negotiations for Study AF/IF."

Eleven months later, the U.S. commissioner has not yet formally presented to the Panamanian and Japanese commissioners its recommendation as to which law firms may give legal assistance to the study commission during contractual negotiations.

b. The fifth meeting of the commission's Board also approved:

"A meeting of environmental experts in Panama on March 1988."

However, in a memorandum dated 25 May 1988 bearing a U.S. Embassy letterhead, the U.S. delegation stated that "in view of travel restrictions, the U.S. State Department cannot send representatives to Panama." This was clearly referring to general restrictions stemming from a unilateral U.S. Government decision against the Republic of Panama that has affected this international organization. This is one of many actions that clearly shows the world who has complied with decisions and who has obstructed the progress of this important study.

The commitment and practice of the Panamanian delegation has been, and will be, to fully comply with the accords dealing with this study, and under no circumstance will it accept informal and arbitrary actions, impositions, pressure, or capricious attitudes from the U.S. delegation.

The U.S. delegates have been showing so much desperation and frustration in the past few weeks that the Panamanian delegation would not be surprised if the U.S. delegation reneges on its tripartite commitment under instructions of the U.S. State Department—which will be under a new administration in a few weeks—after realizing that plans to unilaterally impose a particular position, which is not in keeping with tripartite accords or decisions of the commission's Board, have failed.

The Panamanian Government, which is represented in the discussion of these issues by the Panamanian delegation to the Commission To Study Alternatives to the Panama Canal, reaffirms that it is most willing to help reactivate all pending tasks as long as this complies with accords of the study commission and the decisions and instructions of the commission's Board.

Acknowledging the straightforwardness maintained by the director in regard to matters pertaining to national interests, especially everything having to do with the Panama Canal and its future, I thank you for publishing this letter, the length of which is in keeping with its seriousness.

With my highest regards,

Jose M. Cabrera Jovane, acting foreign relations minister

Canal Commission Director on Attending Meeting

PA0212142388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Carlos Ozores, a Panamanian representative on the Panama Canal Commission's Board of Directors, said today that the Panama Canal Board members have received notice of the next meeting, to be held in Houston, and that the Panamanian directors' attendance at the meeting will depend on the way that the U.S. Government conducts its diplomatic relations with Panama.

[Begin Ozores recording] As Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission's Board of Directors, we have always been interested in taking part in Board meetings. As a matter of fact, a few days ago, we received notice from Washington that the next meeting will be in Houston on 11-12 January. As on previous occasions, we are willing to take part provided that political elements are eliminated so we can concentrate on discussing the agenda topics.

In other words, if at the January meeting the United States does not insist on inviting Mr Sosa, whom they recognize as Panamanian ambassador to Washington, we are willing to go to the meeting. We said this with regard to the last meeting, yet we were informed that Mr Sosa would be invited. If on this occasion they change their position, we will go to Houston. [end recording]

U.S. Building Road Without Permission

PA0212202288 Paris AFP in Spanish 0239 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 30 Nov (AFP)—Panamanian authorities today began investigating alleged violations of the Panama Canal Treaties by the United States, which is building a road to Veracruz, located 13 km west of the capital, "and the Panamanian Government has no knowledge of this." [passage omitted]

The road—which will cost $2.9 million—is being built without the Panamanian Government's knowledge, it was asserted today to local media by President Manuel Solis Palma, who ordered an investigation of the case. [passage omitted]

IMF Reportedly Recognizes 'Special Situation'

PA0412135188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—An official source asserted today that the IMF has decreed that Panama's foreign debt problem is the result of a political, not only financial, situation—so this will "open doors" to the Panamanian Government. Thus, the Panamanian Government may get "fresh money" and new loans from private financial organizations.

A spokesman of the Panamanian Planning and Political Policy Ministry [as received] revealed to ACAN-EFE that Minister Gustavo Gonzalez went to Washington last week, invited by the IMF Directorate Committee, to hear the report prepared by the organization on Panama's economic situation.

According to the source, the IMF recognized that Panama has always acted as a "serious country," meaning it has fulfilled its foreign debt payments. Furthermore, the Panamanian problem is the result of a political, not only economic, situation—so this "opens the doors" for new negotiations with international private credit organizations.

The spokesman quoted Minister Gonzalez' remarks that Panama may again get a credit—even "fresh money"—early in 1989 after the IMF's recognition. This recognition is "like an endorsement" so the country may recover its creditors' trust.

According to unofficial figures, Panama has a foreign debt of approximately $4 billion, and it failed to pay $400 million in foreign debt interest between 1987 and 1988. Consequently, negotiations for new credits have been suspended.

Panama has experienced one of the worst political and economic crises in its history for the last 17 months; the Panamanian Government is withstanding severe commercial and financial sanctions from the U.S. Government. This has reduced its fiscal revenues to 50 percent.

Panamanian Deputy Planning Minister Azael Purcait was consulted by ACAN-EFE about Panama's current economic situation. He asserted: "It cannot be worse...or better" than what it was a few months ago, when "it was predicted the country would cease to exist" after the United States ordered its economic sanctions.

"The situation has definitely deteriorated, but it is improving," considering "we could instead be experiencing a chaotic situation," he explained.

Purcait added that Panama has "postponed" the payments of its foreign debt service but has not refused to pay, and it has not declared a moratorium, as asserted in the media. The government has explained this to international credit organizations.

The IMF's ruling that the Panamanian problem is the result of a political, and not only economic, situation places Panama in a "special situation," because the country will no longer be considered a debtor nation.

Authentic Panamenist Party Removes 4 Leaders

PA0312145888 [Editorial Report] Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 1 December 1988 carries on page 1-A two communiques issued by the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] National Directorate. A 450-word communique announces that the PPA Disciplinary Tribunal has removed directorate members Jorge Pacifico Adames, Francisco Artola, Guillermo Endara Galimany, and Jose Salvador Munoz from their posts "for violating Articles 51 and 52 of the party rules." The former PPA leaders are accused of "violating party rules, making threats, and attempting to subordinate the party to a personal, selfish plan." The communique adds that alternate directorate members Demostenes Vega Mendez, Emilio Royo Linares, David Arce Merel, and Bolivar Bernal will fill the vacant directorate positions.

The other 175-word communique calls for a national PPA convention on 11 December in Anton, Cocle Province. Both communiques are signed by PPA Secretary General Hildebrando Nicosia Perez and other members of the PPA National Directorate.

Argentina

Further Reports on Military Uprising

Seineldin Reportedly Arrested

PY0612112688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1113 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (NA)—According to a report this morning by an officer of the 10th Logistic Battalion at Villa Martelli, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin has reportedly been arrested and taken to a military unit in Tandil.

In a statement to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the officer said that "before 1100 GMT, the colonel was taken to a unit in the southern region, possibly Tandil." The first armored cavalry brigade, headed by General Isidro Caceres, is based in Tandil.

A little before 1100 GMT, civilians and conscripts were allowed to enter the unit.

Seineldin: Agreement Reached

PY0612020988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)—Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, leader of the military rebellion, today told a foreign news agency here that he has not surrendered. All he did was reach an agreement to prevent bloodshed.

The rebel officer, who remained at the Villa Martelli 10th Logistics Battalion with his men, said: "They share our points of view (regarding military matters). Therefore, we do not want to clash with them."

Seineldin granted a short interview to British REUTER news agency correspondents in Buenos Aires and allowed them to enter the unit he has been occupying for the last 3 days.

Seineldin said that "the situation was smooth" and that the number of military men under his orders was large.

The mutinous officer did not allow the journalists to photograph or film him, but gave them permission to interview noncommissioned officers in red and black berets and camouflaged uniforms who shouted "Long live the black-face ones" from atop their tanks.

The journalists observed that there were some 10 tanks and other armored vehicles inside the unit walls, but they did not see any sign that the rebel forces were to be transferred to another place.

Seineldin received the journalists dressed in combat fatigues, pistol on his hip, and surrounded by officers and noncommissioned officers with rifles ready. Some of them had blackened their faces.

One of Seineldin's aides told the journalists that "the question of an amnesty has been postponed." "We know that the government is inflexible on this point, and to demand it would cause an undermining of the constitutional system, and we do not want that to happen," he added.

But the group is standing firm behind its other demands, and it indicates that it has come to an agreement with Army Chief of Staff Jose Caridi in which the latter will leave his post within the next 10 days.

A lieutenant colonel told the REUTER journalists that "it is a question of reorganizing the military power of Argentina."

Caridi Retirement Said 'Imminent'

PY0512210988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)—The request for the retirement of Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi is reportedly imminent. His retirement would lead to the arrest of Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who is not willing to leave his headquarters in Villa Martelli before the pact agreed by the two Army chiefs to put an end to the serious crisis is fulfilled.

According to a high military source, the pact agreed between Caridi and Seineldin yesterday afternoon would create substantial changes in the Army leadership that not only involve disciplinary matters but also a "balance" among the forces.

Regarding the pact, the source said that "officially no one will know about it, but the fact is that Seineldin will not fulfill his part of the agreement until he sees that the other man involved is fulfilling his part."

Apparently this is the main reason Seineldin is still in Villa Martelli garrison, handing over weapons, and making an inventory to be given to General Isidro Caceres, who is in charge of the operation.

Sources of the Army General Staff and the Defense Ministry indicated that Seineldin would be taken in the next few hours to the Libertador Building [Army headquarters] and from there to a unit in the interior of the country.

Government sources also indicated that the Army General Staff is checking the military materiel taken from various units in order to verify what is missing. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Communique

PY0512234688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2314 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (DYN)—The Defense Ministry tonight officially reported that Colonel Mohamed Seineldin "will be transferred to a military unit in order to make

his arrest effective" as soon as Seineldin's assignment of deactivating the "existing operational materiel" at the Villa Martelli Battalion has been concluded.

An official communique indicates that the Army General Staff is "proceeding to reorganize commands" due to the crisis and to "proceed to [words indistinct] normalization."

The official communique was released after a meeting this afternoon between Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi.

Following is the text of the communique:

"The Army chief of staff has informed the defense minister about the measures that have been implemented in accordance with the orders that were given to normalize the situation within the Army.

"1. Once he has finished the assignment given him to deactivate the existing operational materiel at the Villa Martelli Battalion, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin will be transferred to a military unit in order to make his arrest effective.

"2. General Isidro Caceres, the commander of the 1st Armored Cavalry Brigade, has been instructed to relieve Major Avete and to continue the task of normalizing the 6th Infantry Regiment in Mercedes (Buenos Aires).

"3. The Army General Staff is proceeding to reorganize commands as a consequence of the recent incidents that have occurred within the service in order to obtain its quick normalization.

"Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jose Segundo Dante Caridi also believes it is necessary for these tasks to be concluded within the next few hours."

Combat Devices Removed

PY0512190988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1825 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM)—Colonel Mohamed Seineldin—head of the rebellion that according to the Army ended yesterday afternoon—and his men are reportedly removing combat devices they planted upon taking over the military units.

Defense Ministry sources said Seineldin is also preparing to hand over the weapons he and his group seized during last week's events.

As soon as he has finished with this task, Seineldin will be taken to the Army Staff building, where—according to an official report—he will be placed under arrest.

It has also been reported that the activities at the Villa Martelli garrison are being personally supervised by General Isidro Caceres, commander of the 1st Cavalry Brigade, who is thus complying with orders from the president and from the Army chief of staff.

Troops Returning to Bases

PY0612002488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2348 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (DYN)—The Army tonight officially reported that "all administrative measures to normalize the situation" within the service are being implemented, and it requested the population not interfere with the movement of the troops that are returning to their bases.

In a communique released just after 2130 [2330 GMT], the Army General Staff recommends "that the people should avoid the nighborhood of the garrisons," and it warned that night movement in the neighborhood of military garrisons "could lead to mistaken and undesired interpretation at the guard posts."

The communique states:

"1. All the administrative measures are being carried out within the Army to normalize the situation created by the incidents of the past few days.

"2. These measures include the deployment of troops returning to their bases. In this respect, the Army asks for the population's cooperation in not interfering with these deployments, in order to prevent accidents.

"3. It is also necessary to prevent the movement of persons in the neighborhood of garrisons where operations are being carried out. In view of this, security measures have been adopted in the garrisons [words indistinct] the movement of persons in the neighborhood can lead to mistaken and undesired interpretations by the guard posts."

Rebel Officer Refuses Order

PY0512182488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1810 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] La Plata, 5 Dec (NA)—Major Horacio Abete, who heads the 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment in Mercedes, this afternoon said he does not recognize the authority of General Eugenio Dalton, commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade.

Major Abete added he will hand over the command of this unit to an officer appointed by Colonel Mohamed Seineldin.

Abete made this statement to Mercedes Television Channel 5, whose broadcast was intercepted in La Plata.

Some Rebels Leave Villa Martelli

PY0612022388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0205 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)—Three trucks, three jeeps, and one military ambulance containing rebel soldiers rapidly left the Army regiment based in Villa Martelli at approximately midnight [0200 GMT]. The men shouted, "Long live the Turk," referring to Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, and "death," thus breaking the calm that had been reigning in the place.

The rebel soldiers left through the regiment's main gate with the help of the guards, who greeted them when they passed with shouts and arms held high.

* Interoceanic Railroad Operation Planned for 1989

33480030a Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Oct 88 p 7

[Text] The governments of Argentina and Bolivia have done away with certain requirements to accelerate border crossings with a view towards the 1989 startup of the

"Los Libertadores" interoceanic railway corridor that will join these two countries and Peru, Foreign Ministry sources have reported.

One of the measures under study is to eliminate the passport requirement for nationals or residents of the three countries and instead to use only the identification documents that are valid in each of them for travel through the corridor.

The railway corridor will be in full operation in 1989, under the memorandum of action signed this past 13 October in Lima by the under secretaries of the three countries involved in the project.

Details

The corridor will be almost 4,000 km long and will cross Argentine, Bolivian and Peruvian territory, linking the port of Buenos Aires and the Peruvian port of Matarani.

Foreign Ministry sources emphasized that it thus creates an "important link between the Atlantic and the Pacific, constituting a physical integration project of major regional scope."

Experts in the matter indicated that "the advantage that the countries have for building the corridor is that most of the railway track is already there and they have only to overhaul a stretch of approximately 80 km in Bolivian territory in the Lake Titicaca zone."

To complete the project the track gauges will have to be made compatible in a plant that is to be installed in the port of Guaqui, also in Bolivian territory.

Foreign Ministry sources emphasized the efficient operation of the "Expreso del Sur," which links La Paz, Bolivia with Tucuman, Argentina and which represented "a major stride in the startup of the corridor."

The next meeting of the tripartite commission to consider the advances of the project will be held in March 1989 in Buenos Aires, where another major step is planned towards the completion of the project before the end of 1989.

Colombia

FARC Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

PA0512191188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1754 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Interview with Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran by Maria Clara Gracia "minutes ago"; place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Leyva]...over the red telephone and second, all hostilities have unilaterally ended on all FARC fronts. The government once asked me why they do not begin a unilateral end of hostilities if they have goodwill. Here it is. I cannot do any more; I hope the government does not let this opportunity pass.

[Gracia] Do you believe talks should continue with the guerrilla groups?

[Leyva] The truth is that I proposed something to the government, the political parties, and the guerrillas. What you call talks is nothing more than the guerrillas' reply to the proposal—the same way as [former President] Dr Turbay, Social Conservative Party President Dr Fabio Valencia, and Dr Jaramillo Ossa of the Patriotic Union did. The cardinals have been informed of the proposal, and the M-19 and FARC have replied. In fact, they went even further; they unilaterally ended hostilities. Now the ball is in the government's court.

[Gracia] Taking into account that after agreeing not to, for example, carry out any ambushes against troops, the guerrillas continued; they broke the agreement. Do you think we can again trust these statements?

[Leyva] I cannot measure the confidence that should be given to others. The only thing I know is the government is seeking peace, so I imagine this is precisely the way. The suspicion that the government might have of them is the same as you might have, but if the government seeks peace, here is where they can find it, with a preliminary end to hostilities on all fronts. This is what [FARC General Secretary] Jacobo Arenas wrote in a letter that was not addressed to me but to the former presidents of Colombia.

Cartagena Police Kill Four EPL Guerrillas

PA0212211188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The Cartegena police have killed four Popular Liberation Army [EPL] members during an operation. Kidnapped cattleman Francisco Machado Martinez was freed in this operation, but one police officer was killed.

A group belonging to the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board took over the town of Berlin, northern Santander, for approximately 45 minutes early this morning. One woman was killed, and three other civilians were injured.

ELN Rebels Kill Policemen in Cesar, Cordoba

PA0212215388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Report by Osvaldo Castilla]

[Text] The bodies of eight policemen killed by the ELN [National Liberation Army] were taken to Valledupar early this morning. The criminal attack was carried out yesterday in the Loma de Sabaneta area, on the road to Poponte, La Jagua de Virico jurisdiction, Cesar Department.

The policemen were patrolling the area in a Toyota truck following recent disturbances caused by land disputes. A powerful dynamite bomb was detonated by remote control, which killed the policemen when they were getting out of their vehicle to remove a pile of coal that had been placed across the road.

Furthermore, five DAS [Administrative Department of Security] officers and two civilians were killed on 30 November by a subversive group in Cordoba. The DAS officers were investigating a cattle theft when they were attacked by a subversive group.

EPL Attacks Town in Antioquia Department

PA0612125488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Report by Dora Maria Rios]

[Excerpts] One policeman and two peasants were wounded during an attack on La Union municipality, Antioquia Department, by a group of approximately 40 members of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL]. The seizure of the town began with an attack on the police post, where 10 policemen had to defend themselves. The guerrillas used gunfire, grenades, and bombs. Policeman Jorge Gutierrez Diaz was wounded in the attack. The guerrillas then attacked the Antioquia Commercial Bank, which was damaged, and the Agrarian Bank, which was totally destroyed. However, the guerrillas were unable to steal any money. [passage omitted]

Two peasants were wounded when the guerrillas fled the town. After military reinforcements arrived, the troops began combing the area of El Carmen municipality, near La Union. Calm returned to La Union in the afternoon after the town was held by the guerrillas for more than 1 hour.

Communists Call for Political Solution

AU0212121588 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Nov 88 p 7

[Article "written for RUDE PRAVO by Manuel Cepeda, member of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) and director of the paper VOZ": "Communist Party of Colombia on the Situation in the Country; Solution Still Possible"]

[Excerpts] Bogota—The current, deteriorating situation in Colombia is characterized by an intensifying armed struggle and by changes among the Army leadership.

Although the general strike in October (initiated by the trade unions) turned out not to be as extensive as expected, it affected the life of the country. Up to 2,500 persons were apprehended, trade union representatives were sentenced to several months of imprisonment each, and the government announced that losses going into the millions had been caused by acts of sabotage on the statewide electric power distribution network on the day of the strike. Despite the harsh measures adopted by the Government (such as threats of prison sentences up to 1 year for participation in the strike, threats of losing one's job, and radio and television censorship), the aggravated economic situation nevertheless forced the broad masses to go on a general strike.

The increased partisan activity (manifested in a large number of attacks and assaults) helped accelerate the crisis in the Army leadership, and finally led to the replacement of the country's defense minister. [passage omitted] Other changes in the army leadership followed—more than 80 commanders were replaced on various levels. The new defense minister accepted the President's policy and announced that he would seek a way to conduct a dialogue with the partisans. These events testify to conflicts among the members of the high command and show that the political and institutional crisis has intensified. [passage omitted]

It has proven impossible to push through President Barco's peace plan (announced on 1 September), since it is based on the presumption that the partisan movement has been defeated (whereas in reality it is on the upsurge). The Simon Bolivar partisan coordination commission (which rallies the Colombian partisan organizations—RUDE PRAVO editorial note) has called upon the Government to open direct negotiations with it. However, no official reply has been issued to date, and the armed clashes are escalating. The ultra-rightwing "death squads" are leaving behind them dozens of victims, and so far the Government has been unable to eliminate even a single such semi-military group.

Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the PCC Central Committee, pointed out during a parliamentary debate with Minister of Government Cesar Gaviria the alarmingly increasing hegemony of semi-military groups in certain important areas of Colombia—for instance, in the key economic zone Magdalena Medio, which is dominated by semi-military groups cooperating with the chiefs of the drug-smuggling mafia and the local military command. Vieira presented a scandalous secret document of the DAS state security force; it speaks of the existence of five schools for hired assassins in Puerto Boyaca, financed from the immense funds of the drug mafia chiefs. Experts on torture from the United States, the FRG, and Israel are involved in the "training" program as advisers. The Government could not refute this document, which testifies to American and other foreign involvement in the tragedy experienced by the Colombian people within the framework of the so-called low-intensity conflict (a term used by the Pentagon); the Government had to confirm its authenticity, which proves that the massacres of working people in Uraba and Cordoba (where more than 60 workers have been shot) was the work of hired assassins under orders from the local army battalion. [passage omitted]

The PCC is calling for a political solution to the conflict. It has stressed that the withdrawal of General Samudio shows that a political way out of the conflict is possible, and demands that a civilian be appointed minister of defense.

Paraguay

Police Bar Silent Procession in Horqueta

PY0512150988 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
5 Dec 88 p 16

[Summary] Horqueta, Concepcion—The police barred the silent procession that was to have been staged here yesterday morning. This procession had been organized by local church authorities in support of Concepcion Bishop Anibal Maricevich Fleitas.

A strong detachment from the Government Delegation of Concepcion, which has practically laid siege on Horqueta since Saturday, kept nearly 3,000 people from staging a Silent Procession following the mass that was said by Father Lucio Ortiz. These people were then forced to disperse.

On Saturday, the police refused entry in Horqueta to people who were coming to participate in the procession. However, a large number of peasants managed to get in on Friday. After the mass on Sunday, several people were arrested following arguments and scuffles with the police.

Official Sectors Want Constitutional Reform

PY0312113888 Asuncion SENDERO in Spanish
2 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Even though the leadership of the ruling Colorado Party denies it, some official sources maintain that we need to convene a national constitutional assembly, supposedly to improve our democratic system.

We can understand politicians who think the attempt to reform the Constitution is only a political maneuver—particularly if the initiative comes from official sectors—intended only to contemplate a solution to a possible political crisis.

This is the reason the opposition conditions any constitutional reform to a modification of the current electoral laws.

If the ruling party thinks constitutional reform is necessary to guarantee their future, the opposition thinks the electoral laws should be changed because these laws are the main obstacles to fair and just elections.

There seems to be a sector within the ruling party who thinks the creation of the post of vice president is necessary to ensure a transfer of power without conflicts.

If the Constitution is reformed to mandate the election of a vice president, this sector argues, President Alfredo Stroessner will have the decisive vote in his selection and thus guarantee the transition.

The opposition, however, thinks the successor should be elected after a 2-year transition period during which truly free elections with the participation of all sectors could be organized.

The opposition shows it is more concerned about the stability of a future government than about the immediate successor to President Stroessner.

The key to the whole affair is that both initiatives—one concerning the vice president and the other a 2-year transition—are based on the disappearance of the president, with one main difference: the official position has the means and controls the mechanisms to see that the reform, if approved, would be respected.

In any event, the eventual reform of the Constitution is an interesting political issue. According to well-known national and foreign constitutional experts, our Constitution has many totalitarian aspects that should be changed.

All sectors of society will have to participate in order to reform the Constitution. Otherwise, we could fall into the same mistake as the Colorado Party in 1977 when it supported a constitutional amendment that effectively allowed a president to serve for life.

January-November Exports Total $480 Million

PY0112195188 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
1 Dec 88 p 16

[Summary] Customs Directorate General officials have reported that from January to November 1988, Paraguayan exports totalled $480,977,437—42.7 percent more than the value of exports for the same period last year.

Some 39 percent of the exports consisted of cotton; 3.84 percent of soybeans; 7.15 percent of products from the cattle-raising sector; 5.49 percent of soybean pellets; and 3.33 percent of wood.

Peru

Labor Minister on Strike: 'Absolute Failure'

PY0212185988 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The labor minister has reported that the strike called by the Communist CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] was an absolute failure. The minister also reported that 89.5 percent of the workers worked normally throughout the country yesterday, and that 84 percent of the Lima metropolitan area workers failed to obey the strike call.

This government has confirmed its intention overcoming the difficult crisis that the country is going through. [as heard]

Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez said that yesterday's activities were normal throughout the country, except in Cusco where some riots took place early in the morning.

In Lima, he said, the situation was normal and public transport was normal which allowed the majority of workers to attend work.

The labor minister praised the conscientious attitude of the workers, and said they understand the seriousness of the crisis that the country is enduring. He said that Peru cannot lose any more money as a result of strikes.

The CGTP strike was not even noticed in Arequipa where the workers showed up for work as usual. The main roads leading to the city were open and vehicles could easily enter the city. The stores opened normally.

Shining Path Allegedly Ambushes 68 Peasants

PY0512142788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0024 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 2 Dec (EFE)—Presumed Shining Path Maoist extremists ambushed and killed 68 peasants in the locality of Balcon, 200 km north of the southern city of Ayacucho.

A Peasant Defense Patrol unit was combing the area in search of guerrillas when it was ambushed on 22 November, the newspaper EXPRESO reported today.

The wave of violence has hit Peruvian tourist establishments in the city of Huaraz, capital of the Ancash Department, where four inns and hotels were bombed last night, damaging the buildings and injuring an 18 year-old girl.

In Cusco, 1,000 km southeast of Lima, a bus [as received] heading toward Machu Pichu went out of control as the result of sabotage and fell into a 60-meter ravine. The wives of the Jersey City, United States, and Cusco mayors died in this accident.

Leftist Senator Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, president of the Special Commission for the Investigation and Study of Terrorism and Violence, has noted that the escalation of violence has claimed the lives of 21 people per day during the month of November. He said that the increased violence can be traced to actions by the terrorist groups Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). These attacks were repressed by the forces of order.

Senator Bernales reported that 630 people were killed in violent acts in November and that 1,775 have been killed over the past 12 months.

Bernales said that 403 people were killed in November as a result of violent acts, including 147 civilians, 165 presumed terrorists, 65 Armed Forces members, and 26 drug traffickers. A total of 227 people were killed in urban violent acts.

Senator Bernales added that a total of nearly 13,000 people have been killed since the terrorist violence began in 1980.

Bernales expressed his concern over the fact that 67 percent of the people killed in violent acts involved youths who were between 15 and 29 years of age. He asked the government to establish guidelines to counter this social phenomenon.

Amid this bloody and destructive situation, the Peruvian Episcopal Conference has made a Christmas appeal, asking that—without ignoring "the seriousness of the situation"—for a truce "for peace, reconciliation, and tranquillity" to prevail in the country.

The bishops said: "Recalling he who prevailed over death, we call upon those who have resorted to violence and killings as a solution to the evils of society, to allow the citizens for whom they claim to struggle to live like brothers."

Clashes Between Terrorists, Police Leave 3 Dead

PY0612174388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2217 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 3 Dec (EFE) An officer, a Civil Guard member, and a terrorist died in two attacks staged by the Maoist Shining Path. During these incidents six policemen were injured.

According to press reports, a Shining Path column, on 30 November, attacked the Huanzala mine police station in Bolognesi Province, in the northern Department of Ancash. During the attack, a Civil Guard mayor and a terrorist died, and three policemen were injured.

The terrorists apparently wanted to take the dynamite that is used for mining operations. After a 20-minute shootout, however, the terrorists fled.

The Shining Path, on 2 December, attacked the La Union Civil Guard station, in the northern jungle department of Huanuco, killing a policeman. Three others, among them one officer and one noncomissioned officer, were injured.

The reports said that some 300 terrorists have seized the town, some of them dressed in police uniforms, and that they were well armed.

The terrorists were still in the town when on 2 December, military and police forces left for the area. It is not known whether there have been any new clashes.

Meanwhile, several sectors in Lima are still in darkness following last night's partial power outage. Power companies said that the outage was caused by atmospheric disturbances, but the possibility that it may have been caused by a terrorist attack has not been ruled out.

This blackout follows one that occurred 2 weeks ago that affected several sectors in Lima. That blackout was caused by the destruction of several electric towers, and was blamed on the Shining Path.

The intensification of Shining Path attacks in November follows their tradition of intensifying their activities near the date of the birthday of their founder Abimael Guzman, whose birthday is on 4 December.

The wave of violence has caused 630 deaths in November, 403 of whom were political violence casualties. In 8 years of terrorist activities, 13,000 people have died and there have been losses of $10 billion, a figure that surpasses Peruvian export revenues for 3 years.

IPEN Chairman on Reactor Specifications

PY0212191388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Victor La Torre, chairman of the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN), has discussed the importance of the Huarangal Nuclear Plant reactor and its function:

[Begin La Torre recording] The reactor will become critical tonight. That is, it will reach the non-stop fission stage. This will begin when we lower the control bars and the chain reaction will become self-sustained.

As you may know, nuclear energy is a result of uranium nuclei fission in a reactor. The Huarangal reactor produces 10 megawatts of power. This power is obtained from the uranium nuclei, which is contained in the fuel stored in the reactor pool.

This monitoring and control room allows the technicians to read all the instruments built into the reactor, particularly the fission detectors in the ionization chambers. Here, the technicians can also read the rate of fissions per second, the length of the control bars, and more data that must be taken into consideration to check whether or not the reactor has reached the critical stage.

This stage is reached when the number of fissions per second increases indefinitely. When this occurs, we will prevent the number of fissions from increasing out of control by lowering the control bars which will absorb the neutrons that cause the fission. By absorbing the neutrons, the number of fissions per second will be reduced and this information will be monitored.

The Huagangal reactor is a research reactor that principally produces radioisotopes, which are obtained through reactor radiation on various chemical elements.

These radioisotopes can be used in several systems containing flowing liquids. These liquids are marked by the radioisotopes, and the flow and movement of these liquids can be monitored from outside the system by observing the nuclear detectors because nuclear radiation penetrates the systems' walls.

These systems may be the human body, complex machinery, or even water that flows under the surface of the earth. These liquids can be marked with the radioisotopes.

Peru is currently purchasing radioisotopes for its hospitals, where they are used to detect abnormalities occurring in human organs. For this purpose, radioisotopes are introduced in appropriate liquids that reach these organs and accumulate there.

Gammagraphic cameras monitor these radioisotopes from outside the body and indicate their location without an operation. This way, abnormalities occurring in these organs can be detected and diagnosed. [end recording]

Nov Inflation Rate Reported at 24.4 Percent

PY0212165088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Summary] Ulyses Robles Freire, head of the National Statistics Institute, has reported that the November inflation rate was 24.4 percent.

The accumulated inflation rate from November 1987-November 1988 amounts to an average of 1,307.2 percent.

Supreme Court, Appellate Court Chairmen Named

PY0212165388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Summary] In democratic elections today, Oscar Alfaro Alvarez and (Manuel Marul Calve) were named Supreme Court and Lima Appellate Court chairmen, respectively.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Expresses Solidarity to Alfonsin

PY0412224688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1524 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Dec (TELAM-PL)—Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti has phoned his Argentine counterpart, Raul Alfonsin, to express his solidarity in view of the situation prompted by a group of military rebels.

Government spokesmen in Montevideo added that Uruguayan Ambassador to Argentina Adolfo Castells had also expressed his solidarity to the Foreign Ministry and Congress.

The Argentine developments are being closely followed in Montevideo, where all the dailies today devoted their front pages, with photographs, to the military actions and demonstrations repudiating the rebels.

Soviets To Replace First Embassy Secretary

PY0512132988 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Soviet Ambassador Igor Laptev informed Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano that the Soviet Embassy first secretary will be replaced. This follows the incident with Deputy Yamandu Fau of the List 99. According to Foreign Ministry sources, the foreign minister and the ambassador then declared that the incident that brought Ambassador Laptev to the Santos Palace has been "totally overcome."

At noon yesterday, in the office of the foreign minister, Barrios Tassano and Laptev ratified their governments' decision to continue a constructive level of relations, the sources reported.

Confirming an exclusive report in EL DIA yesterday, Ambassador Laptev informed Minister Barrios Tassano of his decision to replace first secretary Djonmakadyr Atavekov early next year.

The USSR diplomatic representative handed to the foreign minister a copy of the personal letter that he sent to Senator Hugo Batalla, in which apologies for the incident are offered. The foreign minister and the ambassador recalled the public statement made by Deputy Yamadu Fau, in which he said that the incident was closed as far as he and his sector were concerned. They then declared the episode closed and reiterated their hope that good bilateral relations will be maintained.

Trade Surplus Reported for 10 Months of 1988

PY0312024488 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 11

[Summary] According to official sources, the trade surplus reached $192,733,000 in the first 10 months of 1988. The surplus was only $2,403,000 in the same period in 1987.

Venezuela

Electoral Council Updates Election Results

PA0612012888 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0030 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Bulletin issued by the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE); read by CSE Secretary General Ezequiel Zamora at CSE headquarters in Caracas—live]

[Excerpts] National total of presidential votes on the basis of electoral certificates received by this council:

Total number of voters: 9,185,647

Total valid votes counted: 2,709,648

Total annuled votes: 62,841

Carlos Andres Perez: 1,141,017 votes; 54.87 percent

Eduardo Fernandez: 829,891 votes; 39.91 percent

Teodoro Petkoff: 77,264 votes; 3.72 percent [passage omitted of candidates receiving less than 2 percent of the vote]

National total of congressional votes:

Democratic Action: 869,848 votes; 42.52 percent

MAS - MIR [Movement Toward Socialism - Movement of the Revolutionary Left]: 208,305 votes; 10.19 percent

New Democratic Generation: 115,000 votes; 5.63 percent

Formula One Rona: 57,594; 2.82 percent

COPEI: 580,672; 28.4 percent [passage omitted of parties receiving less than 2 percent of the votes]

This bulletin contains the results received by the CSE so far. There are still states from which no votes have been received. The CSE will issue its next bulletin tomorrow. Good night.

Ship Explodes on Orinoco River, Lieutenant Dies

PA0412193888 Paris AFP in Spanish 1514 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, 4 Dec (AFP)—It was reported today that a young Navy lieutenant died yesterday when a Venezuelan Navy ship exploded. The ship was used for river control, and it exploded shortly after it left the Orinoco River naval station at Ayacucho port, 400 km south of Caracas.

The local news service INNAC [Informaciones Nacionales] reported that the explosion in the "Apure II" machine room caused a fire and occurred just when the ship was gaining speed.

On board the ship were the naval station's commander, Rear Admiral Justo Perez, three officers, and three marines. They all threw themselves into the river's turbulent waters, and Navy Lieutenant Luis Chacin drowned.

His body was found a few hours later after an intense search.